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THE TIMES

No. 65,155 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4 1995

Plan to cut budget and lawyers' role

Mackay calls for legal aid fundholders

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor will next week unveil proposals for a legal aid system controlled by a regional network of NHS-style fundholders, working within budgets that strictly limit how much money they can hand out.

The proposals by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, described by officials as a major restructuring of the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme, spell the end of a demand-led approach and the dominant role of lawyers in settling publicly-funded disputes.

At the heart of the proposals is a plan to create a regional network of intermediaries or "fundholders for justice", loosely based on the reforms in the National Health Service.

The intermediaries, who need not be lawyers, would come under the regional offices of the Legal Aid Board. They would deal with all applications and act as a filter, ensuring that aid was reserved for disputes that could not be settled in any other way.

The proposals will be outlined by Lord Mackay in a speech that foreshadows a Green Paper in the spring. The speech, intended to initiate debate by posing questions rather than prescribing solutions, will nonetheless include ideas that mark a fundamental departure from the way legal aid now operates. One of those changes would be to move away from lawyers as the first port of call for settling a legal dispute. People would be directed to mediators, ombudsmen, arbiters and advice workers in law centres and citizens' advice bureaux.



Mackay: "At present the money goes rolling out"

trators and advice workers in law centres and citizens' advice bureaux.

Lord Mackay's main concern is to direct legal aid to the right people. Before Christmas he outlined proposals to curb aid to the apparently rich: the Green Paper will look at how to improve access to people who need legal help and are denied it.

These will include legal expenses insurance, conditional fees (no win, no fee), which are due to come into force shortly, and possibly tackling the injustice whereby there is no legal aid for tribunals.

Mackay's speech will be made at a seminar entitled "Addressing cost-effective access to justice", which is being held in London by the Social Market Foundation. It was the foundation that initially proposed the idea of "fundholders" in a pamphlet drawn up by Tony Holland, a past president of the Law Society, and two academics.

The idea of cash-limiting has already been strongly attacked by the Law Society, which says that justice will become a lottery. Legal aid funds would run out at different rates in different parts of the country.

Legal aid is one of the fastest growing areas of public spending. Costs are rising from £500 million in 1989 to an estimated £1.6 billion by 1996. But much of the increase has been caused by government legislation, such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Controls on growth have already meant the legal aid budget was underspent last year by £70 million.

In a BBC Newsnight programme last month, Lord Mackay first indicated he was attracted to cash-limiting the budget. He said: "Cash limiting has attractions in being able to put priorities on the system. At the moment there is no relative priority between one case and another. Once they qualify they enter into the system and the money goes rolling out to the lawyers involved in the case. There are advantages in the system which controls that."

Letters, page 15



Celebration for Darren Gough, right, and his England team-mates after the Australian captain, Taylor, was caught and bowled, fifth of his six wickets.

A new England hero rises from the Ashes

By Paul Wilkinson and John Young

YORKSHIREMEN have long boasted that they represent the heart and stomach of English cricket, and that in the nation's hour of need a knight of the White Rose will ride to the rescue.

History, alas, has not always supported that theory, but new life has been breathed into a dead Ashes series by the rumbustious figure of Darren Gough, 24, whose performance in the Sydney Test has restored

pride to a team racked by ridicule and despair.

Following his half-century by taking six Australian wickets for 49, Gough has become an instant hero. Yesterday his wife Anna declared herself "the proudest wife in all England", and said she would fly out with Liam, the one-month-old son he has not seen, next weekend.

Joining them will be the hero's father, Trevor, who said he would congratulate his son on becoming a father. "After that I will give him a good hug," he said. Mrs

Gough added: "I thought there was every chance he would rescue England. He always likes to go out there and belt it around the place. That is just the way he plays".

Delight yesterday in Gough's home village of Monk Bretton, near Barnsley, was tempered by a characteristic Yorkshire reluctance not to overdo the excitement. Local people had always known the lad was good, but until now not quite how good.

"It's only because there's a Yorkshireman, Ray Illingworth, running the side that

he's there at all," said Steve Lockwood over a pint at The Norman. "If it wasn't for Illy, the side would be full of collars and ties from the Home Counties."

Mr Lockwood knows Gough from his days in the Monk Bretton team. "He was in there at 13, and there's not many who have done that. He was a good bowler, but we also knew he could swing the bat when he wanted to."

Alan Southwell, the landlord, said: "He's done more to put the feel-good factor back into Britain than anything the

Government has achieved. He's given us all a lift."

Mr Gough senior said on Radio 4 that his son had always had an ambition for the top. "He enjoys his cricket, he keeps going and going. He's got a lot of stamina, and he will keep fighting."

Inevitably comparisons are made with another English lion, Ian Botham, who played 102 times for his country, hitting 5,000 runs and taking nearly 400 wickets. Gough still has some way to go.

Bold Gough, page 40

Second victim of meningitis

Five-year-old Alexandra Yates last night became the second victim of the meningitis virus which killed her best friend, Emma Harris, on Boxing Day. Alexandra died in Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London.

The girls, who became ill on Christmas Day, were in the same class at school in Rottingdean, Sussex.

Pupils in search for new schools

Parents are trying to find school places for 140 children before the new term starts, after a 75-year-old independent school closed suddenly over the holiday. The governors of Winton School, Croydon, announced the closure on Christmas Eve. Page 3

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Warning to governors before riot

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

PRISON governors were warned three months ago that men under 25 serving sentences for burglary and robbery were central to disturbances at low-security jails, it was disclosed yesterday after the riot at Everthorpe.

A new generation of tough young prisoners was blamed for the riot which caused thousands of pounds of damage to cells, offices and equipment on two wings. A prison service source said last night that many younger men in Category C prisons such as the jail on Humberside were much more troublesome and ruthless than in the past. They were more likely to have previous convictions and were likely to cause trouble particularly at the outset of their sentences.

More than eight hours of disturbances began when 67 inmates refused to return to their cells on C wing on Monday night. They broke into D wing, which houses inmates who have earned additional privileges, and began a fire in an office. Water Continued on page 2, col 6

Chechens claim a victory amid ruins of their capital

FROM BILL GASPERINI IN GROZNY AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BATTERED Russian troops retreated from central Grozny yesterday, leaving hundreds of bodies and destroyed tanks in the ruined streets around the Presidential Palace.

On the fourth day of heavy street fighting, the Chechens consolidated their position after halting the Russian assault, and even counter-attacked in places. The heaviest fighting was around the railway station, about a mile north-west of the palace. Another battle line lies three miles to the north.

A huge Russian artillery bombardment from north-eastern Grozny, where the Russian forces have regrouped, was apparently designed to protect 60 stranded Russian tanks still surrounded by Chechens. The Russian guns pounded the Presidential Palace, and one shell blew the Chechen flag off the roof.

Chechen aircraft bombed factories in the west of the city. But the centre remained firmly in Chechen hands. The Chechen fighters showed their elation with victory dances. Near by, dead Russian sol-

diers lay sprawled beside their burnt-out tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

Buildings facing the central square were gutted by fire and pockmarked with bullet holes. The air was full of the roar and howl of Russian shells. Smoke from the shelling spiralled up into a sky already darkened by oil fires.

Outside the palace, Shamil Besiev, the Chechen military commander, said: "We intend to defend ourselves whatever it takes."

The bearded commander was dressed in the favourite uniform of the Chechens: green camouflage fatigues and a black ski cap. As he spoke, a group of fighters erupted: "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest).

Boris Agapov, Vice-President of the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, which is sympathetic to the Chechens, said: "Many Russian tanks have been withdrawn to the perimeter of the city, and at least 100 Russian soldiers have been captured."

Three Russian prisoners displayed by the Chechens said that they were the only survivors from two infantry companies which led the initial attack on the railway station on New Year's Eve.

Civilians were again caught in crossfire yesterday. In one incident shown on Russian television, jets trying to knock out a bridge hit civilian vehicles, killing at least ten people.

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Moscow women protest yesterday against the war

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Rosemary West case is reviewed

By Bill Frost

AN URGENT review of the case against Rosemary West is to be held by prosecution and defence lawyers after her husband's suicide at Winsor Green jail on New Year's Day. She is charged with the murder of nine young women whose bodies were unearthed at the couple's Gloucester home last year.

There has been intense speculation that proceedings against Mrs West might not go ahead because of lurid press coverage which followed her husband's death and difficulties with the admissibility of prosecution evidence.

The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday that counsel would be called together as soon as was practicable, though no conclusion was likely to be reached in the immediate future. The CPS statement continued: "Every case considered by the CPS is continuously reviewed to ensure that the evidence available provides a realistic prospect of conviction."

'Confession' auction, page 3
Letters, page 15

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SOUND MADE THROUGH RESEARCH

Skydivers leap for lives from 'sabotage' plane

By Michael Horsnell

FIVE skydivers escaped unhurt after bailing out of a light aircraft which police believe may have been sabotaged by a firebomb wedged in the engine.

Detectives were yesterday investigating a theory that the incident was a revenge attempt against the pilot over the death of a skydiver in an accident three years ago. Lyn George, 35, the

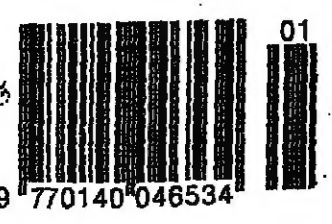
pilot, who was told two weeks ago that he would not be prosecuted, shouted to the skydivers "Bale out, bale out" at 4,000ft after noticing a drop in power and irregular instrument readings. He made an emergency landing, minutes after taking off from the airfield near Whitchurch, Shropshire, on Monday. When he later inspected the Cessna 206 he found a plastic bottle containing aviation fuel inserted in the cowl next to the engine. Mr George

said the container was close to melting. "I dread to think what could have happened," he said. "The aviation fuel was just millimetres away from spraying over the red-hot engine block. Not only could it have brought the plane down, killing everyone on board, but there's no knowing how many it could have killed on the ground."

Mr George was charged with the manslaughter of a skydiver because

the plane involved was allegedly not authorised to carry parachutists. John Ward, 42, plummeted 12,000ft to his death after hitting the plane tail wing on August 26, 1991. The charge was dropped on December 20.

Detective Sergeant Andrew Thomas of West Mercia Police said that revenge was being considered as one possible motive. Residents have been protesting about alleged nuisance from increased skydiving at the centre.



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MoD spends £1m a year on batmen to wait at table

By PHILIP WEBSTER,
POLITICAL EDITOR

MORE than £1 million a year is spent on employing batmen to press the uniforms, clean the shoes and wait at the tables of the highest-ranking Ministry of Defence officers in their taxpayer-funded homes.

Several hundred thousand pounds are spent on sending army officers fox hunting and some £54,000 was spent on new dog kennels at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

These examples of alleged extravagance within the MoD

are contained in a report published by Labour last night which says that £5 billion of waste was identified within the department last year. Labour called the report "an indictment of Conservative financial incompetence and a testament to their mismanagement of Britain's defence capability".

The information, taken from parliamentary answers and official reports, was described as a "national disgrace" by David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, in a year when some 18,000

people have been made redundant through the ministry's defence costs study aimed at saving £750 million a year from 1996-97.

Some £2.5 billion had been squandered by defence procurement problems and £800 million had been wasted on the Trident works programme. Defence equipment costs were spiralling because of the failure to predict technical difficulties, poorly estimated costs, late deliveries and inadequate reliability.

Mr Clark said: "This past year has been a particularly

difficult one for those employed in the defence sector. Malcolm Rifkind [the Defence Secretary] promised stability but all we have got is greater uncertainty. It is a national disgrace that the MoD should be throwing away billions of pounds of taxpayers' money. Financial incompetence and unjustified extravagance appear to be the order of the day at the Ministry of Defence."

Labour MPs have already used parliamentary answers during the past year to expose the spending of some £1 mil-

lion on perks for senior officers, including a bill of some £387,000 to refurbish the official residence of Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson.

Among the other alleged wastes in the report are:

- Some £17m lost through the mishandling of the withdrawal of units of the Rhine army from Germany. Quoting the National Audit Office, the report says that equipment has languished in fields, with some 1,800 surplus vehicles stored in the open with no plans on how to use them, and that vehicles have been

cannibalised unnecessarily.

- About £1.97 billion wasted on overspending on weapons and late delivery, including an alleged £966 million on the Eurofighter project, £267 million on the update of the Tornado GR1, and £37 million on the Sea Harrier.
- Loss of £500 million through the abandonment of plans to sell 70,000 married quarters to a housing trust.
- Some £7 million wasted on unused or redundant telephone lines.
- Inadequate reliability of defence equipment was estimated

by the Audit Office to cost at least £500 million a year.

- Spending of some £25 million on a warship, HMS Sirius, now being considered for use for target practice.
- Cost overruns of some £80 million on a nuclear war bunker under the ministry.

The Labour report said it was typical of the Government that waste on this scale should go unchecked while the defence budget had fallen by 28 per cent and the Armed Forces were being asked to carry out the same tasks with fewer resources.



Clark: overspending is "national disgrace"

NHS trust chiefs given pay rises of up to 27%

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF executives of NHS trusts were awarded pay rises worth an average 6.6 per cent last year at a time when salaries for public sector workers were pegged at 1.5 per cent.

Latest figures show that some chief executives received rises of up to 27.8 per cent and 20 trusts paid increases over 10 per cent. The highest-earning chief executive — Dr David Warrell of Central Manchester Healthcare, who has since retired — was awarded a rise of 18.5 per cent, taking his salary to £112,000.

Details of the rises, taken from the accounts of 130 trusts for the year to March 1994, are disclosed in the January issue of the *Management Pay Review*, published by Incomes Data Services. They follow a report earlier this week by the Labour Research Department which showed that members of the average NHS trust board receive pay and emoluments worth £293,000.

The size of the rises is likely to fuel resentment among

other NHS staff who were held strictly to the Government's 1.5 per cent limit on public sector awards for 1993-94. Even taking account of the annual increments awarded automatically to most staff, the average rise for chief executives was higher. Incomes Data Services says it is the second year that the rise in their pay has outstripped that for other staff.

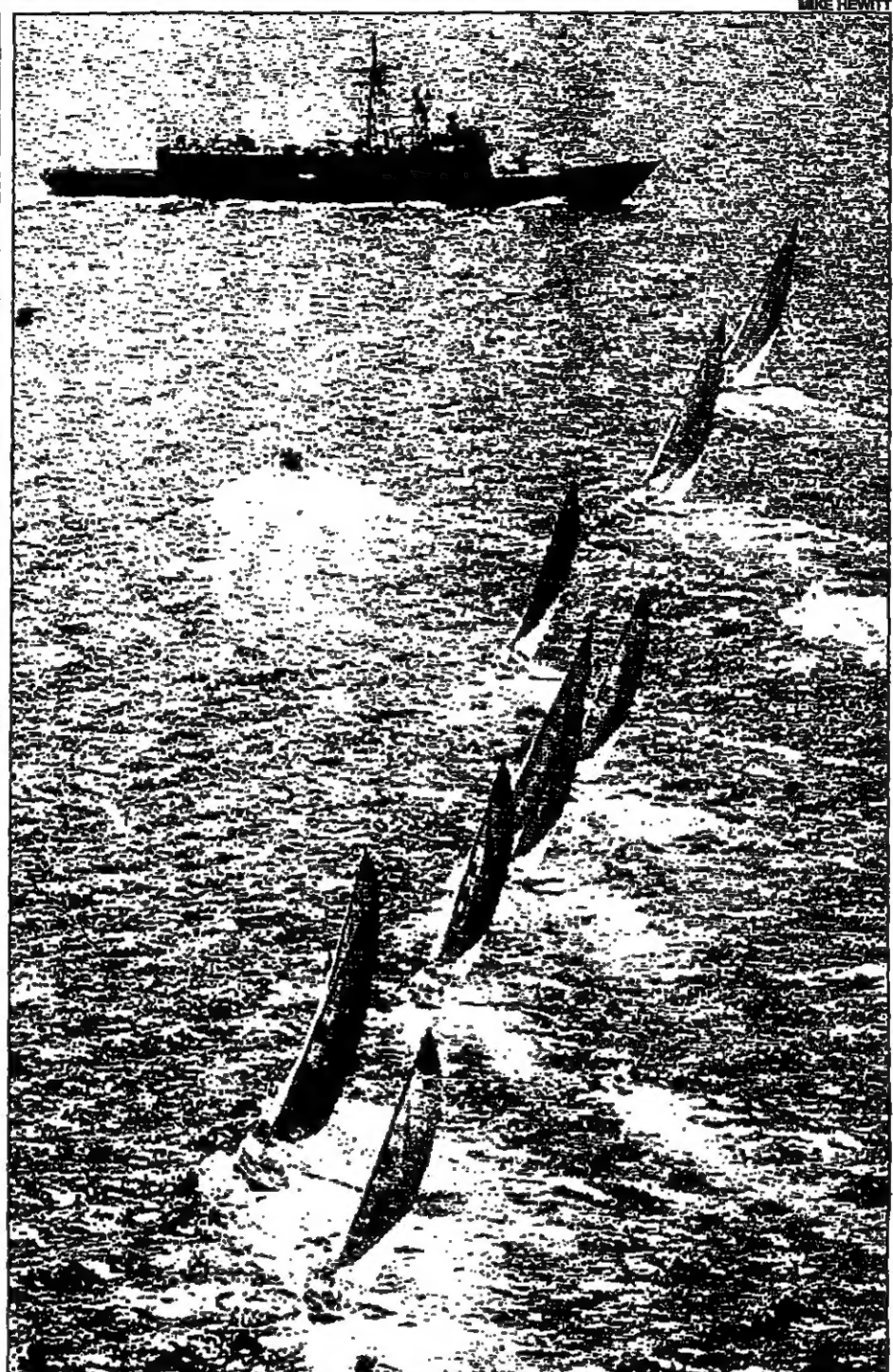
Four chief executives were paid £90,000 or more, while at the bottom of the scale 14 earned less than £50,000, with ambulance trust chiefs the lowest paid group on average. Four suffered a pay cut during the year and a further 14 had no rise, usually because bonuses were withheld.

The report says that many trusts do not understand basic accounting practices and supplied inadequate information. The Christie hospital in Manchester appeared to have awarded its chief executive a rise of 34 per cent until it discovered it had "inadver-

tently omitted" performance bonuses and other benefits worth £7,000 from the previous year's accounts. Even taking these into account his earnings rose by 17.2 per cent. Accounts for the Royal Free Hospital in London failed to disclose pension contributions, which effectively increased the chief executive's earnings by £12,000.

Turnover of chief executives was extremely high over the year, the report says, affecting a third of the trusts. Heatherwood and Westham Park in Slough, Berkshire, has had three chief executives since it was established.

Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said there was no evidence that the salaries were out of line with those in other areas. "It is one of the toughest jobs around to run a multimillion-pound trust hospital and we need the most capable people, so we should pay them accordingly."



Whitbread Round the World race yacht pictured off Australia by Mike Hewitt, a winner in the Marine Photographic Competition featured at the London Boat Show

Scrap school aid says Hattersley

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour Party is urged by a former deputy leader today to scrap the charitable status of independent schools.

As the Tories continue to try to exploit the confusion over Labour's education policy, Roy Hattersley writes in *The Times* that the party could not justify subsidising fees at Eton and Harrow through charity status instead of using the money to provide pre-school places in inner cities. He says that Labour's radical reputation and its hopes of becoming a genuinely reforming government "depend on providing an education system that meets the need of the whole population".

John Prescott, the deputy

leader, confirmed yesterday that removing charitable status, a concession worth some £42 million a year to independent schools, remains an option in the party's education review. Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative Party chairman, wrote to Tony Blair, the Labour leader, last night stating that such a policy would mean parents incurring VAT on school fees and called on him to state Labour's policy clearly.

Mr Prescott admitted that Labour's long years in Opposition had meant that its spokesmen, himself included, tended to be "a little bit loose" with their policy statements.

Roy Hattersley, page 14

British Legion unveils new look

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE Royal British Legion launches a campaign today to revitalise its image and propel it into the next century.

Although the ex-servicemen's charity collected £20 million last year, including £14 million from the poppy collection, it spent £23 million. Legion officials hope that their campaign will raise awareness and ultimately increase donations.

They aim, with a new logo and a year-round poster and advertising campaign, to show the many facets of their work and emphasise the organisation's modern relevance. The effort begins today with a presentation at the Royal Society of Arts.

Jeremy Lillies, public relations officer, said that the Legion wanted to show a younger and more contemporary face for 1995 and beyond. "People don't see us as a modern organisation. They think we are just something to do with the world wars. The fact is that we are an organisation for all ex-servicemen."

The Legion has a growing number of ex-servicemen and their families turning to them for help. "The youngest Second World War veterans are only 63 years old, and we have the National Service generation coming through, who all qualify for our help, together with those leaving all three forces every year. People are also living longer, which is creating a huge demand."

Special projects will be emphasised in the campaign, including the Legion's small business advisory service and training centres, where it helps ex-servicemen from all generations to resettle into a civilian lifestyle.

Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, the Legion's national president, said: "We are not just about providing money, but dignity."

Leading article, page 15

BT cuts price of transatlantic call

By ERIC REGULY

BT will reduce the price of transatlantic telephone calls by about 20 per cent from next month. Mercury Communications, its main rival in the increasingly competitive overseas calls market, said it would match the cuts.

At the same time, BT announced that it was increasing its line-rental charge by 4.6 per cent, a move that will boost the company's annual revenue by about £100 million. It said that the increase of £1.10 per quarter was slightly more than a penny a day for residential customers.

Rebates under BT's light user scheme for customers who rarely use their telephones will partly offset the



Michael Hephner: "A much better deal"

rise. The latest reductions in overseas calls mean that a three-minute evening and weekend call to the US and Canada, BT's busiest foreign destinations, will cost £1.14, down 21 per cent from £1.44. A daytime call falls 22 per cent to £1.19.

Under price controls imposed by Oftel, the telecommunications regulator, BT must shrink its overall prices each year by the retail prices index minus 7.5 per cent. The controls, which came into effect in mid-1993, remain in place until mid-1997.

Oftel said the increased rental charges were in line with its separate RPI plus 2 per cent formula for line rentals. BT claims it needs the extra revenue to help cover the high cost of maintaining its network.

Michael Hephner, BT's managing director, said the new charges to the US were less than half the prices of calls made from the US to Britain.

"Contrary to popular belief, BT's customers will be getting a lot better deal than the Americans when it comes to making calls across the Atlantic."

Business News, page 21
Pennington, page 23
Rise of Celine, page 25

Riot blamed on young inmates

Continued from page 1

pipes were fractured, cells damaged and equipment wrecked in the trouble, which ended at 5am when police and prison officers stormed both wings. Inmates from C wing were transferred to other jails.

Detective Chief Inspector Terry Lamb said: "There is extensive damage to everything that is breakable within C wing. Doors, windows, tables and chairs have all been smashed. And there is similar sort of damage in D wing."

The Prison Service said the damage cost less than £10,000 and that the repairs would be completed within a week.

But the disturbances increased the perception of a prison service with severe difficulties. The Opposition accused Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, of running scared, when neither he nor Michael Forsyth, the Prisons Minister, uttered a word about the latest incidents. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that when things were going well Mr Howard was there to take the credit, but when there were problems he could not be found.

It is understood that Mr Forsyth is in Scotland, Mr Howard is being kept informed of developments at his country home, and that Baroness Blatch was the duty Home Office minister.

Police chief questions drink-drive campaign

A chief constable called for a complete review of campaigns against drink-drivers yesterday after the annual Christmas blitz produced only a small fall in the number of motorists failing tests. David Williams of Surrey Police said that enormous resources were being put into both summer and Christmas campaigns and police had to ask whether it was the right use of police resources.

The number of drivers failing breath tests during the Christmas campaign fell from 6.51 per cent last year to 6.04 per cent. A total of 78,090 drivers were tested in 43 police areas in England and Wales with 4,720 refusing or failing.

Thaw by the weekend

The country faces further icy conditions today, although forecasters are promising a thaw spreading south from Scotland by the weekend. Heavy frosts, especially in the South East, will hamper motorists on their way to work, and black ice will linger in the higher parts of the country.

Forecast, page 20

Parents found dead

Two young girls were orphaned yesterday after their parents were found dead at their Buckinghamshire home. Mrs Dawn Morgan was battered to death in the maisonette in Burnham; her husband, Brian, was in the adjoining room. Police are treating the case as a murder and a suicide. It is not clear whether Carla, 11, and Dawn, 13, witnessed the deaths.

Wheels of justice

A motorcyclist alleged to have ridden at 178.9mph on the A38 Sutton Coldfield bypass had his case adjourned yesterday. Anthony Pearce, 31, was one of 21 motorists caught for allegedly travelling at more than 100mph on the dual carriageway last July. Sutton Coldfield magistrates called for tests on his Honda CBR900 Fireblade.

Grayson in hospital

Larry Grayson, right, the veteran entertainer, was in hospital last night after emergency surgery for a perforated appendix. Grayson, a former *Generation Game* presenter who is in his 70s, was found unconscious on the floor of his bungalow in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, on New Year's Day. Paul Vaughan, his manager, said: "He is certainly not well. But we think he is mending."



Fugitive's car found

Police hunting a man wanted in connection with the shooting of his wife on her doorstep in South Wales began checking lodging houses, hotels and hostels in west London yesterday after his car was found in west Kensington. Phillip Manning's wife Margaret was shot in Aberdillery, Gwent, on Christmas Day.

Stormont fire inquiry

A forensic examination has failed to establish a cause of the fire at the Stormont parliament buildings in Belfast. The police investigation is expected to last several days. The fire was confined to the Commons debating chamber and there was no evidence of structural damage, the Northern Ireland Office said. Restoration costs are estimated at £2 million.

93 'ships of shame' detained

By TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a hundred foreign vessels have been detained in UK ports as being unseaworthy since the Government decided six months ago to publish a regular list of "ships of shame".

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, said the figures were stark and disturbing.

The list of the 93 ships detained were published yesterday and illustrate the potentially disastrous faults in ships that regularly visit British ports or sail close to shore.

In one vessel, the crew had to plug holes in the ship's side, tanks and collision bulkhead with wooden plugs. On one of the fish factory ships, known as *Blondykers*, rat infestation was so bad the crew were unable to sleep.

Half the ships, detained came from five countries: Russia (13), Cyprus and Malta (10 each), and Bulgaria and Panama (7 each).

About a third of the ships had to be held for more than seven days and more than three quarters were over 15 years old. A third were gas, chemical or oil tankers or bulk carriers and a quarter were registered in states of the former Soviet Bloc.

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Royal flush proves too much for resort

By A STAFF REPORTER

KLOSTERS proved yesterday what many had feared: the Swiss ski resort is just too small for two royal ski groups.

The first evidence came as a group of 60 photographers, reporters and camera crew waited for the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry to meet them on a slope for the traditional family skiing picture. With the weather closing in to near-blizzard conditions and the Prince late, the group was

becoming anxious when suddenly the Duchess of York, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie appeared on the slope above.

After some hesitation they skied past the press group without stopping. A few minutes later, the three princes skied down and posed for photographs. The Prince was in a chatty mood and he joked with photographers about the freezing conditions affecting their cameras and having brought the snowfall with him from Britain. It was

explained that the Duchess had not meant to intrude on the photo-shoot but had little option but to ski past as there were no other slopes open which the young princesses, aged four and six, could manage.

Shortly afterwards, the weather worsening and temperatures falling to -15C, the two royal parties were forced to shelter in the warmth of the same mountain restaurant. While the princesses joined their cousins for hot

drinks, their mother remained at a separate table. She told reporters that she had not been invited to join her brother-in-law.

The Prince's private secretary, Commander Richard Aylard, later denied that there was any hostility between the Duchess and the Prince. "All this talk about frostiness is complete and utter nonsense. There is no hostility with the Duchess as far as I am concerned."

Photograph, page 20

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Closure leaves 140 pupils in scramble for school places

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE sudden closure over Christmas of an independent school has left the parents of 140 children struggling to find places for them elsewhere before the new term starts.

Winton School in Croydon, south London, which was founded in 1920, should have reopened today. But the governors told parents and staff on Christmas Eve that safety fears and financial problems had forced them to order an immediate closure.

Other schools in the area have been asked to take the 60 senior pupils and 34 children from the preparatory school. Staff are trying to keep the GCSE candidates together for the final term before their examinations. The Whitgift Foundation, which runs independent schools in the area, has offered teaching accommodation, and Winton staff, who will meet tonight, may complete the courses.

A stream of parents visited the school yesterday in the hope of finding alternative places. Local independent schools have interviewed some pupils and some have set special entrance examinations. Croydon education authority is trying to find room for others in state schools.

The fees at Winton ranged from £500 a term in the junior school to £1,215 for the seniors. Nat Murphy, whose three daughters went to the school,

said: "It came as a complete shock to us. We have to give a term's notice if a pupil is leaving, but we were left to find another place when most of the schools were closed."

Neil Murray, the headmaster, who had been in post for barely a year, said: "Like the rest of the staff, I had no inkling that the school was going to close at all, never mind so suddenly. The governors did not realise the extent of the problems until their meeting the previous day."

The 100-year-old buildings were surveyed last year to assess a backlog of repairs. Consultants advised subsequently that the school should not reopen until a number of fire hazards and other breaches of health and safety regulations were rectified.

Mark Wright, chairman of the governors, whose own son attended the school, said: "Over the years, the school has really been neglected in terms of maintenance, and we were looking to secure its long-term future. Unfortunately, this starting point meant that we could not expose the children and staff to the risks, and we would not have been able to reopen within any acceptable timescale."

He added: "Winton has been struggling financially for many years as numbers have fallen, and the curriculum in the senior school has not been

balanced. A lot of investment was needed, which we hoped to raise, but in the end there was nothing we could do. It was a very difficult decision."

The Winton premises and site will now be sold, and the trust responsible for the school wound up or taken over. Mr Wright said: "The bank is owed nearly £60,000 and the staff will have to be paid off, so the residue is not likely to be enough to consider starting another school."

Mr Wright addressed parents last weekend, but his explanation left many disgruntled. Colin Jones, whose three-year-old son David was in the pre-prep class, said: "We paid the fees, and we felt we were entitled to something more specific. We would still like to keep the teachers if a merger could be arranged with another school."

Dipak Shah, 10, sat an entrance test for Trinity School, Croydon, yesterday and will start there this morning. His father Madhu said: "Both our children now have offers of places. We would have preferred them to stay where they were because they were doing well."

Tony Graham, whose son Christian also attended the pre-prep class, said: "We think the parents have been wronged by the governors' action, and there are still questions we want answered."



Dipak Shah, 10, discussing his future yesterday with headmaster Neil Murray

British woman dies in Nigeria hammer attack

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A BRITISH woman was bludgeoned to death with a hammer in an offworkers' compound in Nigeria, Anne Wetherill, 37, a mother of three, died in the early hours of New Year's Eve.

Her husband Alan, 39, said that she was attacked as they returned from a party. He has been asked to remain in the residential area for Shell employees in Port Harcourt while police investigate the death.

Mr Wetherill was found cradling his dying wife outside their home. He told police she had been injured by a hammer attack on the threshold of their house. He called the police and ambulance from inside their home and then went outside to tend to his wife until she died. Twenty minutes later the police arrived and arrested him. He has since been released but is thought to be effectively under house arrest. Mr Wetherill did not appear to have been injured in the attack.

The couple's children — daughters of eleven and six and a son aged nine — are being looked after by another family in the Shell compound. Mrs Wetherill's mother Marion Pettit said at her home near Swindon yesterday: "It is too painful for us to talk about."

Mr Wetherill, a field engineer, had worked for Shell for 17 years. A British consul from Lagos was dispatched to Port Harcourt when reports came in that he had been detained.

A spokesman for the High Commission said yesterday it was still awaiting a report from the Nigerian police and the situation appeared confused.

The robbery rate in Nigeria is increasing, with Nigerians as well as westerners affected. On Monday, the wife of an Israeli diplomat was murdered by robbers in the town of Akure. A couple from the Finnish embassy were wounded in the same attack.

A Nigerian observer said it was common practice for the police to arrest anybody in the vicinity of a murder or serious attack. A German woman detained on suspicion of assaulting her husband was freed when he recovered and told police she was innocent. Shell prides itself on providing good security for employees. A Shell employee told *The Times*: "If there's any place that's safe, it's Port Harcourt. There's never been any robbery there. The power doesn't go off. It's well lit. It's patrolled by police dogs with strict security at the gates of the estate and the houses are all close to each other."

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria produces roughly half of Nigeria's daily production of oil totalling two million barrels. It is the biggest multinational oil company in Nigeria and has often been the target of protests by the indigenous peoples of the delta area who are poverty stricken despite the fact that most of Nigeria's wealth is derived from there.

Neighbour accused of fatal fire

By LIN JENKINS

TWO young women were burnt to death by a neighbour who started a fire after a dispute with them, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Geraldine King, a secretary, and her fiancée Amanda Lofting, an unemployed shop assistant, both 22, were burnt beyond recognition in the fire which engulfed their north London home. Edda Doyle, 29, a painter, and decorator of Westbury, denies two charges of murder and two alternative charges of manslaughter.

Rosina Hare, for the prosecution, said Mr Doyle had been out drinking with his girlfriend when he returned and annoyed the women by hanging doors, running up and down stairs and turning up the volume of his television.

The women asked him to be more considerate and there was an argument, after which Mr Doyle set light to the room using an inflammable liquid. Ms Hare described the victims as "two pretty women, full of vitality, who enjoyed life."

The court was told that as the flames spread a woman neighbour saw Miss King lying at the top of the stairs and heard her scream for a few seconds. Mr Doyle, who denies knowing how the fire started, escaped to the back garden.

The hearing continues.

Post-mortem confirms death by hanging

MP condemns auction of West's 'confession'

By BRIL PROST

FREDERICK WEST, the 53-year-old builder charged with murdering 12 women and girls, died from "cerebral anoxia due to hanging", West Midlands' Police said yesterday after a post-mortem examination.

The confirmation that death was caused by the brain being starved of oxygen came amid anger over reports that a former legal clerk was offering West's "confession" for sale to newspapers for a reputed six-figure sum.

It is understood that several national newspapers were approached by an intermediary on behalf of the unidentified Gloucester-based man, who is believed to have been close to the case. The offer is thought to involve claims that details would be given of how West allegedly killed his victims and his motive for the murders.

Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who is leading the Cromwell Street inquiry, last night said he had no knowledge of such a sale offer, if it would be investigated, he said.

Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North and chairman of the Conservative backbench media committee, said: "If this story is correct, it's absolutely

outrageous. It would be a total breach of professional confidence, and it would call into question the probity of the legal profession, as well as the media."

Mr Bennett condemned increased media speculation about the possible discovery of further bodies, saying it had caused added distress to victims' families. "There are no plans at present to perform any further investigations on any other site," he said.

Commenting on newspaper reports that the death toll might reach 60, he said: "Speculative reporting of this nature does not assist in our inquiry. It is inaccurate, without foundation, and it is speculative. There is no foundation whatsoever at this particular time."

Despite claims of lurid and "unbalanced" reporting of West's death on New Year's Day, lawyers yesterday said that the media had not jeopardised the chance of a trial for his wife Rosemary, 41, who is accused of nine murders. Jonathan Caplan, QC, a leading member of the criminal bar, said: "Experience has taught me to be a great believer in the jury system. They will try Mrs West on the evidence, not on the pre-trial publicity."

"I know of only a handful of cases where trials have been abandoned because of what was printed or broadcast before the hearing. To assume the jury can't put that sort of coverage to one side is to

greatly undervalue their ability."

Tony Edwards, president of the London Criminal Court Solicitors' Association, said: "I see no reason why his widow should not receive a fair hearing. The jury will decide on the strength of the evidence."

Douglas French, Tory MP for Gloucester, said yesterday that he hoped the Crown Prosecution Service would proceed with the prosecution of Mrs West. "If the case against her does not go ahead there will be legitimate public outcry."

Mr French did not believe coverage of West's death had jeopardised a fair trial for Mrs West. The charges against the couple had received wide coverage before his suicide, making it impossible to find a jury that knew nothing of the allegations. "That's the same with any high-profile case," Mr French said. "I don't think the extra interest since Fred West's death will cause the potential jury to think any differently about the case against Mrs West than they would have done previously."

"There is no greater prejudice against the possibility of a fair trial than there was previously. If the authorities felt they could go ahead before Fred West committed suicide, I cannot see any reason why they should not go ahead now."

Wife's case reviewed, page 1
Letters, page 15

Refugee boy goes walkabout in pyjamas

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN ALBANIAN boy who disappeared from his home in south London wearing only his pyjamas was found safe and well yesterday evening.

Dritan Reshiti, 12, who cannot speak English, was last seen outside his home in Purley, south London, yesterday morning. His parents reported him missing after he failed to go back inside the flat. Dritan arrived in London three weeks ago with his mother, father and younger brother from their home in the

Kosova region of Albania. The family are believed to be seeking refugee status in Britain.

The Metropolitan Police used a helicopter and dogs to search the area around Croydon after Dritan, who speaks Italian, was reported missing at 9.30am, wearing red pyjamas and a pair of brown leather shoes and carrying £1. Police said they were "very concerned" for his safety because his clothing was so flimsy and because he could not speak English.

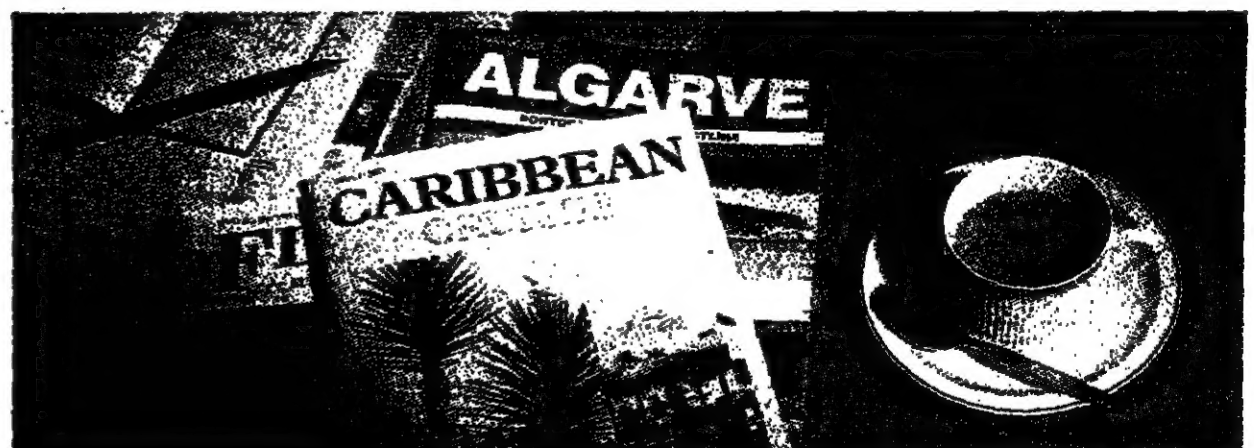
However, after several

people telephoned the police to report sightings, Dritan was found eight hours later in the West End of London, still wearing only pyjamas. A police spokesman said that although he was bewildered and cold, Dritan was in good health and was reunited with his parents last night.

"He is safe and well and had not apparently suffered any ill-effects from the sub-zero temperatures," the spokesman said. Police will use an interpreter to talk to Dritan today in the hope of finding out why he left as he did.



Dritan Reshiti: can speak no English



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JP haunted by sex case 22 years ago

THE magistrate who freed Frederick West 22 years ago after he was convicted of sexually assaulting a teenage girl said yesterday that he was still haunted by the case.

West was fined £50 after Gloucester magistrates were told that he stripped, gagged and indecently assaulted the young woman, who was a former lodger at 25 Cromwell Street. John Smith, who was chairman of the bench when the case was heard, said yesterday: "I dealt with hundreds of cases, but not one that has haunted me quite like this. I regret not sending him to prison, but it was a unanimous decision."

"Magistrates can only go on the evidence before them and we felt that a fine was adequate. All the police presented us with was an indecent assault. Of course, if we knew then what we know now, we would have sent him to prison."

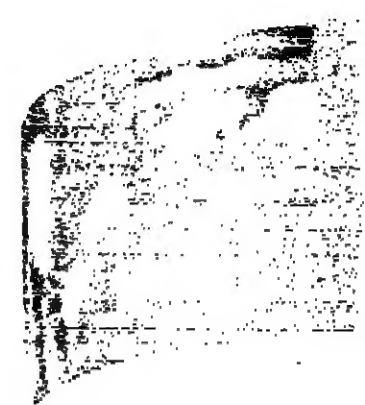
The court had been told that in December 1972 West lay in wait for the 17-year-old late at



Smith: "I regret not sending him to jail"

night in the Forest of Dean. She was stripped, bound and assaulted in the back of West's car. She was then driven to his home, where he produced a knife and assaulted her again. She was attacked again the next day before escaping.

Mr Smith, a former Mayor of Gloucester, said that he remembered West as "a docile kind of chap... and the police said he was exactly the same with them."



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4 1995

Port chiefs braced for second night of animal rights siege

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PORT authorities at Shoreham in West Sussex called for more police protection last night as animal rights activists gathered in force to prevent a further shipment of livestock to the Continent.

About 250 protesters clashed with police on Monday after lying down in the path of lorries carrying calves destined for Dieppe. The police eventually turned the lorries back, saying they could not guarantee the safe embarkation of the animals.

Shoreham is the only port in

Britain from which farmers are trying to export livestock. The three main cross-Channel ferry companies, P&O, Stena Sealink and Brittany Ferries, stopped carrying such cargoes at the beginning of November.

Animal welfare groups objected strongly to the call trade, which earned £95 million in 1993, because most of the animals are destined for Holland and France to be reared in veal crates, a form of husbandry banned in Britain on cruelty grounds since 1990.

Philip Lacey, general man-

ager of the Shoreham Port Authority, said: "There were not enough police present on Monday to remove people sitting and kneeling in the road, part of which lies inside the port entrance. This must not happen again. We are entitled to be able to conduct our legitimate business."

Mr Lacey said stones were thrown at dock staff after the police withdrew on Monday. He urged the police to use the powers they have under the aggravated trespass provisions of the new Criminal Justice Act, which make it an offence for anyone to go on private land with the aim of disrupting a lawful activity.

Bob Parry, president of the Farmers' Union of Wales, which has many sheep-exporting members, called for more police to be deployed. "Nobody opposes orderly demonstrations but blatant interference with a legal trade must not be tolerated or we'll be subject to mob rule," he said.

Sussex police said the lorries



Police trying to dislodge animal rights activists staging a sit-down protest at the port entrance on Monday



A protester checking one of the calves due for export

had been turned away in the interests of safety and added: "We are there to ensure free passage for those having lawful access to the port while at the same time allowing those with strongly held views to express those views within the law."

Joyce D'Silva, the director of Compassion in World Farming, warned militant activists

that their tactics were prolonging the suffering of the animals. "I imagine those calves had a pretty rough time last night," she said. The organisation said its members protested peacefully outside the port entrance on Monday but had not joined demonstrators obstructing the lorries.

Since the ferry ban, calf

prices have fallen by about 40 per cent. The calves are surplus males from dairy herds for which the foreign market is virtually the only outlet. By contrast sheep prices have risen by about 20 per cent because of a shortage. Since the ban many are being slaughtered before export.

Yesterday Phoenix Avia-

tion, the air freight company whose leased Boeing 737 crashed near Coventry airport on December 21, said that it would resume livestock flights to the Continent as soon as it could hire another aircraft. The company is underpinned by continual demonstrations outside its Rugby head office and at the airport.

Official Aids total passes a million

By NICK NUTTALL AND SHARMILA DEVI IN GENEVA

THE number of people in the world with Aids has officially exceeded one million. The World Health Organisation said yesterday, however, that it estimated more than 4.5 million people had the disease.

The latest WHO figures show a 20 per cent rise in Aids cases in the past year. In addition, 19.5 million men, women and children are estimated to have HIV, the infection that can lead to Aids.

A WHO spokesman said that the disease could affect 40 million by the end of the decade.

In the UK, 9,865 cases of Aids have been reported, which is below many other European countries, including France with 32,722 sufferers, Spain with 27,584, Italy with 24,511, and Germany with 11,854.

The extent of the disease in Africa is putting at risk future generations and the economic prosperity of a continent already blighted by malnutrition, disease and war. How-

ever, the Medical Research Council in Britain is studying six prostitutes in The Gambia who seem to have acquired immunity to the disease. Details of the research, published in the latest edition of *Nature Medicine*, indicate that the prostitutes are producing "killer" lymphocytes, disease-fighting cells capable of specifically attacking the virus that can cause Aids.

Dr Sarah Rowland-Jones, one of the British scientists involved, said: "This is an unusual and promising finding. The prostitutes carry signs of exposure to HIV and yet we cannot detect the virus in their blood. There is a distinct possibility that they have produced an immune response that has destroyed the virus."

Aids is most prevalent in Africa, with 70 per cent of the estimated cases. About 9 per cent of cases are in the United States, 9 per cent in the rest of the Americas, 6 per cent in Asia and 4 per cent in Europe.

Woman to challenge rugby ban

A DENTIST who wants to be the first woman on the Rugby Football Union's general committee is campaigning to change the rules that effectively ban women from administering the game.

The rules insist that all committee members be eligible to play for England. The England women's team has associate status only and mixed rugby is banned, so Beverley Davis, 35, who wants to be elected by Cornwall to fill its place on the committee in March, would be barred.

Ms Davis, who is secretary of Helston rugby club, is hoping that her county colleagues will support her campaign for a change in the rules at the RFU's annual meeting in July. She is planning to take legal advice and may also take her case to the Equal Opportunities Commission.

She described the rule as ridiculous. "Most of the existing members are too old to play for England so I cannot see why I should be ruled out just because I am a woman."

Traffic warden 'forced out for doing job'

A TRAFFIC warden who became notorious after giving a parking ticket to a coach carrying disabled people is taking legal action against Devon and Cornwall Police claiming that he was forced into early retirement.

Mike Driscoll, 47, was drafted into Torquay after gaining a fearsome reputation in nearby Brixham. He claims that a few months later he was forced to resign because the police, his employers, did not like the adverse publicity he

generated. He followed a bus driver into a public lavatory to give him a ticket and booked a motorist picking up a prescription for his sick wife, as well as booking the coach carrying disabled people.

Mr Driscoll, of Torquay, has enlisted the help of his union, Unison, in seeking compensation but does not want his job back. "I've been penalised for doing my job properly," he said. "When I first started I upset some people in Brixham, where they had had the same traffic

warden for years and some of the people didn't like what I was doing. There were complaints about me, but people don't like getting tickets, do they?"

"The truth of the matter is that the police didn't like the flak. Once it hit the papers they had me retired on health grounds. But I'm not giving up that easily. I'm fighting it every inch of the way." Devon and Cornwall Police denied that they had driven Mr Driscoll out of his job.

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ITV regains festive viewers

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC's traditional lead in the Christmas television ratings was seriously dented by ITV last week after a fierce scheduling battle.

Although BBC gained the highest three audiences and seven of the top-ten ratings for Christmas Day, its share of viewing for the day dropped to 48 per cent from 61.2 per cent the previous year. ITV, which achieved only 21.7 per cent audience share in 1993, reached 31.6 per cent in 1994.

ITV's decision to take on the BBC this Christmas, instead of its usual practice of saving its best programmes for the new year, meant that no programme reached more than 15 million viewers. Last year *Only Fools and Horses* on BBC attracted 19.6 million.

The top show this Christmas was BBC's *One Foot in the Grave*, starring Richard Wilson as the unfortunite Victor Meldrew, with 15.1 million viewers. Second was the film *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* on BBC, with 14.3 million and third



Wilson: top rating as Victor Meldrew

EastEnders, with 14.2 million. ITV's top programmes were *Heartbeat* with 13.8 million viewers, *Coronation Street* with 12.4 million, and *Blind Date*, with 11.9 million, according to figures from the Broadcasters Audience Research Board.

ITV's share of viewing for the week ending on December 25 was 35.3 per cent, a percentage point up on the week ending December 26, 1993. BBC's Christmas week audience share dropped from 42.2 per cent to 37.1 per cent.

Peter King, television re-

search director at the advertising agency MDPDB Needham, said: "I think that for once the BBC let their guard down and were taken by surprise. But ITV's victory is a bit of a two-edged sword. While most of ITV's paymasters, the advertisers, do not advertise on Christmas Day and Boxing Day and so are not much affected by viewing figures, they do welcome anything which gives good publicity to commercial television."

The Queen's speech, broadcast by the BBC and ITV at 3pm on Christmas Day, continued its downward slide. Including repeats, the audience was 15.7 million, against 18.1 million in 1993 and 19.6 million in 1992. ITV is considering moving the speech next Christmas to a later slot to make way for feature films.

Despite the increased competition, audiences watched slightly less television on Christmas Day in 1994 than the previous year. The average viewer spent five hours and 22 minutes in front of the set, against five hours and 37 minutes in 1993.

Television, page 39

Heads fight to reject unruly pupils

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers yesterday demanded the withdrawal of government guidelines that require state schools to admit disruptive pupils. The education of the well-behaved majority was being jeopardised, the National Association of Head Teachers said.

The union said head teach-

ers and governors who wanted to refuse places to pupils with behavioural problems had been put in a "strait-jacket" by two new government circulars on admissions. These said it was not acceptable for schools to turn children away on the ground that they might disrupt the education of others.

The union cited the case of a comprehensive in southwest England that was forced to admit a pupil with convictions for theft and burglary who had previously been expelled from two schools after the local authority, supported by the Education Department, threatened legal action. In another case, a school in northeast England was told to accept a boy who on a pre-admission visit had attacked a

pupil and left him needing hospital treatment.

David Hart, the union's general secretary, said it was prepared to seek judicial review. He said: "Refusals of admission are based on very serious grounds and are not made without anxious consideration of any available alternatives."

Mr Hart added that some pupils who needed specialist education were trailing from one mainstream school to another, and claimed that local and central government "want a bureaucratic solution which passes the buck to schools."

The Education Department said that Gillian Shepherd, the Secretary of State, was considering the "complex legal issues" raised by the union.

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Tory MPs greet troubles with resignation

By Alice Thomson
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Conservative parliamentary party will change substantially after the next general election, irrespective of the result.

The present parliament passed its halfway point only three months ago but an unexpectedly large number of Tories have already said that they will stand down, many in what would usually be considered safe seats. Some have cited exhaustion; others are disappointed at having been dropped in government reshuffles. Over the next few months several more are expected to announce their plans to retire.

Seventeen Tories have announced their decision to leave the Commons in the past 12 months. The most senior is John Biffen, 64, one of only three members of Margaret Thatcher's first Cabinet still in the Commons. Most are relieved, the prospect of a difficult election having become less and less appealing. Most have been MPs for 20 years or more and remember being in Opposition, something they prefer not to repeat.

Those retiring are not wasting their last parliament. Sir Keith Speed, 60, the former Navy Minister who was



Among the Tory MPs who have declared or hinted at their intention to stand down at the next election are, from left, above, Biffen, Speed, Ward, Fairbairn, Sainsbury, Critchley and Scott, and below, Hannam, Renton, Onslow, McNair-Wilson, Thompson, Monro and Spicer



forced to leave the Thatcher Government in 1981 for opposing defence cuts, was one of the main opponents of Michael Heseltine's Post Office privatisation proposals. John Ward, a backbench stalwart for 15 years, decided to step down as the MP for Poole then, at the age of 69 in July, was unexpectedly made parliamentary private secretary to John Major.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the

61-year-old MP for Perth and Kinross, poet, eccentric and bon vivant, has been in poor health but it did not stop him telling the Prime Minister he was not up to the job. He is disillusioned after more than 20 years in the Commons. "There are too many professional politicians and research officers producing clones fashioned to the whims of the whips," he said.

Eager prospective candi-

dates are already vying for the seats, many of which have large Tory majorities. Sir Tim Sainsbury, a former Industry Minister, held Hove with a majority of 12,268 in 1992. He is retiring and Andrew Elliott has been chosen to fight his seat. Gerald Howarth, former MP for Cannock and a former aide to Baroness Thatcher in her last 16 months in the Commons, has been chosen for Julian Critchley's seat of

Aldershot, where he will defend a 19,842 majority.

Sir Keith Speed's seat of Ashford in Kent has a 17,359 majority. After a close battle, the local party has picked Damian Green, a member of the Downing Street policy unit until his selection.

Some sitting MPs who will lose their seats in boundary changes have also been offering to make speeches in colleagues' constituencies in the

hope of being chosen should the existing members retire.

Sir Nicholas Scott, the former Social Security Minister whose daughter publicly condemned his action in stalling legislation on the disabled, has hinted to his constituents that he might give up his very convenient, and safe, seat in Chelsea. His boundaries will change substantially and incorporate part of the present Kensington seat, where the

Tory MP is Dudley Fishburn. Candidates are already competing for Sir John Hannam's seat of Exeter.

Tim Renton, 62, the former Chief Whip and MP for Mid-Sussex is one of the most senior figures standing down. Another prominent departure will be that of Sir Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking with a 19,842 majority. He held the chairmanship of the 1922 Committee from 1984 to 1992 and was previously a Foreign Office Minister.

Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson is giving up his New Forest seat, in which he had a 20,405 majority last time. Less attractive is Patrick Thompson's Norwich North seat, where his successor will defend a majority of 206.

Most of the list are solid constituency MPs rather than high-flyers. Sir Hector Monro, a Scottish Office Minister, is one of the longest serving MPs at 71. He will have been MP for Dumfries for more than 32 years. Sir James Spicer, another backbencher of 20 years' standing, is calling it a day at Dorset West, as is Sir Fergus Montgomery, 66, (Ayrtricham and Sale).

However, the Father of the House, Sir Edward Heath, 76, who has been an MP for 44 years, says he has no intention of retiring.

Freak surge in power blows up appliances

By Michael Horsnell

FAMILIES fled into the street after a freak surge of electricity blew up household appliances and started small fires in 23 homes, causing damage estimated at more than £20,000.

Elderly people and families with young children on the Coronation Estate in Felixstowe, Suffolk, were taken in sub-zero temperatures to temporary shelter as firemen put out fires and checked a further 50 properties. The surge briefly doubled the voltage and wrecked televisions, satellite dishes, microwaves, cookers, video recorders, freezers, fridges, hi-fi systems, dishwashers and washing machines. Eastern Electricity began an investigation yesterday.

The company blamed workmen who had damaged the underground cable in the cul-de-sac and knocked out the neutral wire, which controls fluctuations in the power supply. Eastern Electricity said it was a rare type of incident and invited householders to send in claims.

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KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Anglo-German race

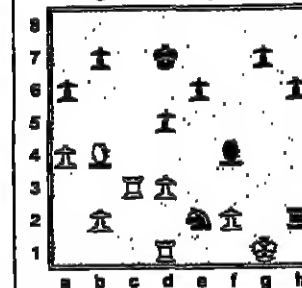
The Vera Menchik memorial tournament at Hastings has developed into a dramatic race between the German grandmaster Thomas Luther and the English grandmaster John Nunn, the defending champion. In round six both won their games to move ahead of the pack. Luther has 5 points from six games, while Nunn has 4. No other player has more than 3.5.

White: Madl
Black: Luther
Hastings, January 1995

French Defence

- 1 e4 e5
- 2 d4 d5
- 3 Nc3 Bb4
- 4 e5 c5
- 5 a3 Bb5
- 6 Bc2 Nc6
- 7 Nd5 Nc4
- 8 Nc4 cxd4
- 9 Bb5+ Bc7
- 10 Bxd7+ Kxd7
- 11 Nf3 Bb6
- 12 O-O Ne7
- 13 a4 a5
- 14 Ng5 Qe8
- 15 Qf3 Bc7
- 16 Qd7 Qd7
- 17 Nd7 Rf8
- 18 Ng5 h6
- 19 Nf3 Nc6
- 20 Rf1 Rxd3
- 21 gxd3 Nxe5
- 22 Rf6 Rf8
- 23 Rf3 Nc4
- 24 Bb4 Rf5

Diagram of final position



- 25 Rd3 Ne6
- 26 Rb3 Ng6
- 27 h4 Nh5
- 28 Kg2 d3
- 29 cxd3 Rg5+
- 30 Nh1 Nd3
- 31 h4 Rg4
- 32 Rf1 B4
- 33 Rf1 Rd4+
- 34 Kg2 Nd4
- 35 Rf3 Rf2+
- 36 Kg1 Ne2+

White resigns
White: Susan Lalic
Black: Thomas Luther
Hastings, January 1995

Sicilian Defence

- 1 e4 c5
- 2 Nc3 e6
- 3 f4 Nc6
- 4 Nf3 a6
- 5 g3 d5
- 6 d3 Nf6
- 7 Bg2 b5
- 8 Bc2 Be7
- 9 O-O b4
- 10 Qe1 O-O
- 11 Nd1 a5
- 12 b3 bxa3
- 13 a4 Bxa3
- 14 Bxa3 Rxa4
- 15 Bc4 Rb4
- 16 Nc3 Rb6
- 17 Nb5 Qb6
- 18 a4 Nb4
- 19 Qc3 Bb7
- 20 Bb2 Rb8
- 21 Rxa6 Rxa6
- 22 Ra1 Qa5
- 23 Ba1 Qa5
- 24 Na3 a4
- 25 Qf3 Qa8
- 26 Kf2 g5
- 27 h3 h5
- 28 b5 Nxe5
- 29 Nxe5 Bg2
- 30 Qd1 Bb3
- 31 Qc3 Qd3+
- 32 Kd3 Bg5
- 33 Ne6 f6

White resigns
Three share lead
In the challengers' section, the lead is shared by three players on 5 points: the Russian grandmasters Eduard Gufeld and Ruslan Sherbakov and Keith Arkell of England.

Winning Move, page 40

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South	Love all
<p>♠ J84 ♥ 765 ♦ 9752 ♣ K73</p>	<p>♠ A87 ♥ K9832 ♦ J4 ♣ Q94</p>
<p>♠ 52 ♥ Q104 ♦ 10863 ♣ A1082</p>	<p>♠ KQ1063 ♥ A J ♦ A K Q ♣ J 8 5</p>
<p>S 2NT (1)</p>	<p>Pass</p>
<p>W</p>	<p>N 3NT</p>
<p>E</p>	<p>All pass</p>
<p>Opening lead: ♠2</p>	

By Robert Sheehan
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) 20-22 points. (Is 22 more or less likely than 20 points? See "Frequency" below)

What should declarer play from dummy at trick 1?

Answer: To make a certain trick out of the clubs South should duck the opening lead. But the object of the exercise is to make nine tricks in 3NT, not one trick in clubs. The point is, if East gets in at trick one he will be able to switch to hearts, and unless the hearts are 6-2 with East having no entry the contract is bound to be beaten.

So go in with the king of clubs. If it loses to the ace, you were going to go down anyway. If the king wins, you

clear spades and will be all right provided the clubs were initially 4-3; the lead of the two rather suggests that.

Frequency: the further a hand is away from the average, the less frequently it occurs. I think it is something to do with the Second Law of Thermodynamics. A 30-point hand crops up about three times as often as a 22-point hand.

□ From time to time readers ask me for good sources of bridge books. The main specialist bookshop in London is Chess and Bridge Ltd, 369 Euston Road, NW1 3AA (071-388 2404). The magazine *International Popular Bridge* (0115 942 2615) has a comprehensive mail order department.

Russian generals, politicians and human rights activists decry military fiasco in Chechenia

Motley alliance emerges against Yeltsin adventure

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AN unlikely alliance of army generals, ambitious politicians and well-meaning human rights activists could be galvanised into a powerful new opposition against President Yeltsin if his military campaign in Chechenia continues to falter.

As reports from Grozny, the Chechen capital, suggested that Russian troops had spent a fourth consecutive day unable to subdue Chechen irregulars, a similarly motley collection of President Yeltsin's opponents is hoping to repeat the victory in the growing political battle in Moscow.

Probably the first people to gain from the military fiasco unfolding in the Caucasus are senior army officers, who for some time have been hostile to the Kremlin leadership. They were among the first to come out publicly against using force to reimpose Moscow's rule over the breakaway republic. No less than five generals, including three deputy defence ministers and one commander in the field, have openly criticised the operation in Chechenia as unconstitutional and ill-conceived.

Foremost among them is the charismatic and outspoken commander of the 14th Army in Moldova, Lieutenant-Gen-

eral Aleksandr Lebed, whom many regard as a possible candidate in the presidential elections next year.

An Afghan veteran and paratroop commander, his stinging attack on the incompetence of the operation was primarily directed at General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, now personally in command of the bloody assault on Grozny. More recently, however, he has blamed Mr Yeltsin directly for the action, remarking on Sunday that "constitutional order cannot be restored with artillery".

At the Defence Ministry in Moscow, a similar argument has been voiced by Colonel-General Boris Gromov, the last commander of Russian forces in Afghanistan, and another possible presidential hopeful next year. He is facing dismissal for comparing Mr Yeltsin's decision to send troops into Chechenia with the invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, both of whom he claimed had little regard for troops' lives.

While the generals have risked their military careers in opposing their commander-in-chief, Russian politicians have also staked their credibility by

challenging Mr Yeltsin. The most vocal critic has been Yegor Gaidar, the former Yeltsin ally and reforming Prime Minister, whose Russia's Choice party has led daily attacks on the Kremlin's military escapade in protests from Moscow to Grozny's front lines.

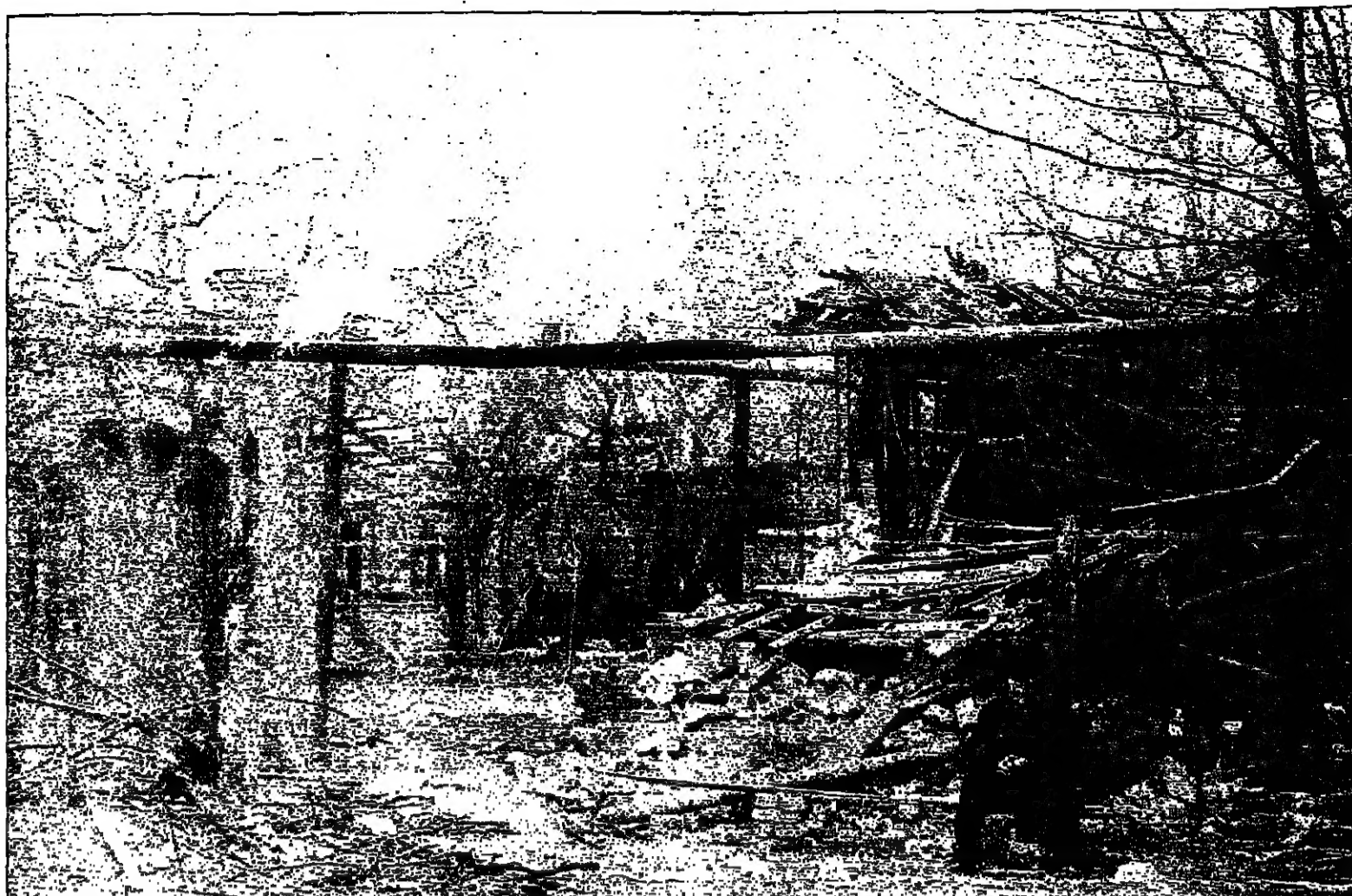
Although he has won respect for his principled stand on Chechenia, concrete political gains are more likely to go to his liberal ally, Grigori Yavlinsky, the head of the Yabloko faction, who has been the Kremlin's most consistent critic on Chechenia. According to a recent poll by the All-Russian Public Opinion Centre, Mr Yavlinsky, a young populist figure, is the country's most trusted politician with support running at 35 per cent, far ahead of his rivals.

Other figures hoping to exploit the country's strong anti-war sentiment belong to the more traditional opposition groups, such as Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, and Aleksandr Rutskoi, the conservative former Vice-President who led the failed 1993 uprising against Mr Yeltsin.

While much of the political opposition to the war smacks of sheer opportunism, some politicians are likely to emerge from the conflict with their reputations enhanced whatever the outcome of the military operation. Sergei Kovalyov, Russia's human rights commissioner and a parliamentary deputy, has spearheaded the anti-war lobby at great personal risk from an apartment in the centre of the fighting in Grozny.

Mr Kovalyov, who is considering withdrawing from politics to devote himself to human rights issues, was described on Russian television recently as the "keeper of Russia's conscience", the title once held by the late Andrei Sakharov.

Leading article, page 15



A Chechen man outside the ruins of his Grozny home, which was destroyed in a Russian bombing raid. A fractured gas pipe burns above him

Time running out for Clinton fence-sitting

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON and his advisers are dismayed by the onslaught against Chechenia, but their criticism has been muted out of support for President Yeltsin and a conviction that a break-up of Russia is not in America's interests.

With each passing day, however, the televised horror from the front line makes Washington's tepid responses more difficult to justify. Pictures of decapitated Chechen women and children have already eroded support for Mr Yeltsin among the incoming Republican majority on Capitol Hill.

Serious doubts are being raised about the steadiness of the Russian President's leadership and his disdain for democracy. He is frequently referred to privately as behaving like a tyrant. There is talk of further American aid to Russia being at risk.

Washington's fear is that a successful break from Moscow by the Chechens would lead to defection attempts by other republics with ethnic minorities that could lead to

further violent clashes, a disintegration of authority and a potentially catastrophic loss of central control over Russia's nuclear weapons. In resolute Tatarstan, for example, there are two nuclear weapons plants and six ballistic missile bases.

As so often happens, the Clinton Administration had managed to muddy the position of the United States. Last Saturday, the State Department said that the Russians must stop using indiscriminate force in the rebel Caucasus republic. Later the same day, Mr Clinton said: "They are dealing with it the best they can."

In a clarification, Anthony Lake, the president's National Security Adviser, said the Administration fully supported Russia's territorial integrity. The issue was not whether Chechenia should be a part of Russia, but the military tactics that should be used to crush its quest for independence.

Mr Lake said the Administration was seriously concerned that the tactics so far had led to many more

deaths than need have occurred and had created tens of thousands of refugees. The war on the Chechens had caused deep divisions within Russian society that were also a concern, because America had a tremendous stake in a healthy and democratic Russia. "From the beginning, we've been saying to the Russians publicly and privately that we hoped this could be resolved both quickly and with as few civilian casualties as possible," said Mr Lake.

Robert Dole, the leader of the Senate's Republican majority, said bluntly that Russia's use of force would "turn off" the American people and Congress. "This is a no-win situation for Yeltsin and an indication that democracy may be on the brink of failure," Mr Dole said. As a result, President Yeltsin's request for more aid from Congress would be a "big, big hurdle to jump".

The question of whether Mr Yeltsin would still be in office a year from now was "probably a close call", according

to Mr Dole, who said that the war in Chechenia had inspired Russian nationalists, giving them more force and making them more effective in a way that could even lead back to the Soviet system. Americans fear that if Mr Yeltsin does fall, it will be in a nationalist coup led by the likes of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the hardline self-styled "Liberal Democrat" who loathes the West and wants to regain all the lands lost by the Soviet Union.

Some American critics say that former President Bush and Mr Clinton were wrong to put so much faith in Mr Yeltsin's ability to govern. "You can't base a political system on one individual," said Harvey Blazer, a Russian expert at Georgetown University, Washington. "We want stability and we're afraid that any alternative to Yeltsin will be worse. But that doesn't mean we should encourage him." Human rights groups are also berating Mr Clinton for not speaking out against the killing of Chechen civilians.



Generals Gromov, left, and Lebed, veterans of the Afghan war who have denounced the campaign in the Caucasus

Moscow has repeated strategic mistakes of tsar and Stalin

Kremlin conjures up a disaster

■ The Chechenia campaign has chilling echoes of blunders by tsar and dictator, writes Anne McElvoy

WHEN even the Russian government press centre in the besieged Chechen capital, Grozny, admits that a "very tense" situation has necessitated "regrouping" and "reconsideration of tactics", the scale of Moscow's military disaster cannot be ignored.

The latest defeat, in which Russian forces were beaten back by lightly armed defenders and lost, by their own admission, "several dozen" tanks and armoured vehicles, may prove to be the turning point in a conflict so appalling in its scale that it invites the question whether President Yeltsin's misadventure is the result of a cock-up or a conspiracy by his advisers.

The basic strategy of using tanks and armoured personnel carriers, backed up by bombing raids, to capture a city has gone predictably awry. It was never much more than a terror tactic anyway, its success predicated on the Chechens turning tail as the first buildings crumbled and the tanks rolled in.

But the Russians should have known from the lessons of the lengthy and bitter wars for conquest of the Caucasus in the last century that one thing Chechens do not lack is fighting spirit. It remains a mystery why the Kremlin expected to be able to secure victory without a big infantry offensive.

In 1844, Tsar Nicholas I made a similarly ill-tempered push for mastery of Chechenia. Disappointed in his general staff, he insisted on running the campaign himself, sending instructions by courier from St Petersburg. The result was a disastrous assault, after which the Russians were beaten back and isolated in the mountains.

A settlement was not reached on Russian rule over Chechenia until 1857. This



time too, command is being run from the Russian capital. General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, has taken it on after General Iven Babichev, commander of the 19th Motor Rifle Division in the northern Caucasus, resigned at the beginning of the conflict, saying that he was not prepared to attack unarmed civilians. The general staff, last resort of discipline in the

6 This is a culmination of the incompetence and corruption that are rife in the military leadership

chaotic Russian military, has been sidelined in the operation, for reasons doubtfully linked to its scepticism towards Mr Yeltsin's leadership and splits in the army command. There has been a baleful silence from this quarter on the progress of the war.

Sundry history lessons have been roundly ignored so far. The defenders of Grozny have been able to turn the strength of their opponents against them, using the rubble razed by tanks and bombing as guerrilla territory, where they

can create bunkers and weapon stores from which to surprise the Russians. No anecdote better illustrates the inverted relationship of power than that of the Chechen explaining how groups of 30 defenders were able to locate and destroy Russian tanks with the help of information from local people after the Russians had "got lost in the fog".

This is a scenario gruesomely familiar from Afghanistan, and Moscow's eventual defeat there cannot be far from the minds of the attacking troops and their officers.

Kremlin hopes of a brief, neat conflict are reminiscent of the winter war that Stalin waged on Finland in 1939-40. Furious that his forces were falling prey to ski-borne guerrillas who blew up tanks with primitive petrol bombs, Stalin dismissed the command and had the war run from Moscow. It took until March to subdue the Finns, at such cost that Khrushchev later referred to the operation as "a military victory, but a moral defeat".

The failure to subdue Chechenia is particularly ironic in view of post-Soviet Russia's new military doctrine, announced by General Grachev with much fanfare in 1993. He promised a switch in emphasis from tank-dominated forces, structured primarily

for cross-frontier conflicts, to lightly armed, highly mobile "rapid reaction forces".

No such structured approach has been taken in Chechenia. The crack 24th Motor Rifle Division has mysteriously not been deployed. Russian fighting forces have instead been raised seemingly ad hoc from whatever units were close at hand. It is as if the Chechens, not the Russians, had chosen the timing of the battle.

"This is a culmination of the incompetence, corruption and mismanagement which is rife in the military leadership," said Professor John Erickson, director of defence studies at Edinburgh University. "They don't give a damn about their soldiers. The only Russian officers with a right to be proud of themselves are those who turned their backs on this fiasco at the start."

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Israeli killings of Arafat police cast pall over talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East peace process stumbled alarmingly yesterday as talks between Israel and the Palestinians reopened in Cairo, with bitter recriminations over the killings of three Palestinian policemen by Israeli troops and a potentially explosive dispute has developed over the future of Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

Mutual suspicion, now stronger than at any time since the treaty between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed 15 months ago, increased further when a visit to autonomous Jericho by an Israeli minister was cancelled after a row over security. Militant Jewish settlers in the West Bank enclave of Efrat issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the Government to start construction work at a compromise site after rioting erupted over an extension project near an Arab village. Unrest spread to a new land dispute near Nablus where Palestinians protested over the alleged expansion of the Ariel settlement.

The shooting dead of the three policemen in disputed circumstances in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip di-

minished the chances that Israeli and Palestinian security forces will succeed in co-operating sufficiently to enable the next stage of the Oslo process — Israeli military redeployment in the West Bank — to go ahead as planned. Israeli military sources claimed that the Pal-

Tel Aviv An Israeli military court in the West Bank has sentenced an Arab-American convicted of channeling funds to Islamic militants to five years in prison, the army said yesterday. Mohammed Salah, 41, a naturalized US citizen, was arrested in January 1993 and had been on trial behind closed doors for a year. (AP)

inian police had fired first on an Israeli military patrol and that the Islamic war cry "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) had been shouted. PLO leaders insisted that the Israelis had fired first.

Ahmed Tibi, a senior adviser to Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, claimed that one of the Palestinian policemen was

shot while sleeping in his bed. An Israeli military spokeswoman said last night that an anonymous caller had alleged during the afternoon that Hamas had kidnapped an Israeli soldier, but no evidence had been found that any soldier was missing.

In Cairo, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister and leading architect of the peace agreement, tried to play down the shooting of the policemen, claiming that the incident had resulted from a "misunderstanding" and should not be allowed to delay the next round of talks.

"It was a very unfortunate incident. I am sure that the intention of our army was purely to fulfil its mission," Mr Peres said of the killings. He repeated an earlier claim that the Israeli commander had ordered the policemen in Arabic to cease firing. "I regret the loss of life. I hope it will not be repeated," he added.

The three policemen were hailed as "martyrs" of Israeli aggression. Thousands of angry mourners shouting anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans cheered Mr Arafat when he appeared briefly and said in an address to the

crowd and the coffins, draped in Palestinian flags: "We will continue in our task, and your blood will light the road to Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine." In remarks guaranteed to inflame right-wing Israelis further, Mr Arafat told the gathering, which included both Islamic militants and members of his mainstream Fatah faction of the PLO: "Let no one think that they can scare us with their stronger weapons. For we have a mightier weapon, the weapon of faith, the weapon of jihad (holy war)."

As an Israeli ministerial committee yesterday approved plans to proceed with expanding the Efrat settlement on a compromise site already rejected by Palestinians, PLO officials said that failure to halt Jewish settlement in the West Bank was bound to destroy the peace process in which discussion of settlement issues has been deferred.

Zakariya al-Agha, the member of the 24-strong Palestinian Authority in charge of housing in the self-rule areas, said the Israeli decision gave official sanction to further settlement building.



Palestinian police chanting "Death to Israel" yesterday while travelling on a lorry to the funeral of three colleagues killed by Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip

Spate of murders alarms whites

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A SPATE of murders, and violent or armed robberies over the new year, has alarmed South African whites.

There is a growing feeling among conservative commentators that the plans for creating a more "representative" police force which were announced by Sydney Mufamadi, the Police Minister, are at best ill-timed.

The murder victims included a Danish tourist, who was found apparently strangled on a farm in the Orange Free State. In Johannesburg, a police reservist, a young businessman from the suburb of Sandown, was shot dead by a gang of thieves when he spotted them holding up a garage, while in Cape Town police reported at least 19 murders over the weekend.

Violence by blacks against blacks was also in full flood. Four hundred patients were treated on New Year's Eve at Baragwanath hospital in Soweto, with another 460 on Sunday. Mr Mufamadi's plans for the police include a redeployment of its generals and the appointment of many more black divisional chiefs.

India agrees to buy fabled royal jewel collection

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AFTER more than 20 years of argument, the Indian Government has decided to buy the fabled jewels of the Nizam of Hyderabad, one of the world's most fabulous private collections, assembled by one of India's most renowned sycophants.

Mir Osman Ali Khan, the seventh and last of the nizams, was among the richest men in the world and contributed lavishly in funds and manpower to Britain during the First World War.

King George V was impressed: in 1918, he elevated the nizam to "His Exalted Highness" and conferred on him the title "faithful ally of the British Government", which became part of the family crest.

The nizam donated £25 million to Britain at the outbreak of the Second World War. He died in 1967, leaving

an auction which was scheduled to be held on court premises on September 20 of the same year. International buyers drooled at the prospect.

The Government changed its mind at the eleventh hour by declaring that the nizam's jewels were art treasures and therefore could not leave the country.

The auction was cancelled. Since then, there has been fierce argument between the Government and the trustees over the value of the pieces, especially 37 of the most spectacular items.

The two sides reached final agreement on the price in 1993 and the Government said it would pay for the jewels in six instalments. The trusts rejected the arrangement: the Supreme Court agreed and directed the Government to pay in full.

And there events stalled, until the Supreme Court again intervened at the behest of the trusts. It forced the Government's hand by directing that the trusts could invite bids from foreign buyers after January 16. The court had earlier given a deadline of December 31 but yielded to a government appeal for more time.

The Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) approved funds to buy the collection. However, the Rajya Sabha (upper house) did not get around to ratifying the decision in its last session.

That potentially disastrous lapse was resolved by the discovery of a loophole in the parliamentary rule book, allowing the money to be handed over to the relevant government department.

All that is left now is to work out the final details. The Government must produce all the cash by January 16 or the deal will collapse.

Lavish arrangements will have to be made to ensure safe custody of the jewellery to a location, which has yet to be disclosed, for eventual public viewing.

The current nizam, Prince Mukarram Jha Bahadur, whose title is honorary, lives in Western Australia. Tax authorities are inclined to pounce on him whenever he visits India, which he does rarely.

Some family assets, including a palace or two, have been seized in lieu of tax, and estate duties have been demanded by both the central Government and the state administration of Andhra Pradesh.

The largest stone in the nizam's collection is called the Jacob diamond, which weighs 185 carats. Hyderabad has been yielding diamonds since the 17th century; the largest, the Koh-i-noor (Persian for "mountain of light"), weighing 787 carats, was discovered near Hyderabad on the banks of the Krishna river in 1656.

Ownership of the Koh-i-noor passed to the Moguls, Iranians, Afghans and then to Ranjit Singh, greatest of the Sikh leaders. Britain finally acquired it when the East India Company annexed Punjab in 1849.

It was given to Queen Victoria and is the centrepiece of the Crown.



George V: honoured nizam for his support

130-odd heirs to fight for shares of his diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, pearls and gold, plus several palaces, business enterprises — including a sugar factory — and large tracts of land.

Six of the former palaces are in Hyderabad; most are crumbling and neglected.

Without government intervention, the 173 pieces of his jewellery collection, held in bank vaults in Bombay and valued at £40 million, might have been auctioned abroad.

Its future has been debated since 1972, when the two trusts that own the collection urged Indira Gandhi, then the Prime Minister, to buy it.

She said that the Government was not interested. The jewels would have been sold abroad long ago but for legal intervention by Princess Padma Fauzia, a member of the erstwhile royal family.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1979, however, that the pieces could be sold abroad, at an

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Republicans roll up for Capitol Hill revolution

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AT NOON today a clerk will bring the new 104th Congress to order. Newt Gingrich will be sworn in as House Speaker, and the much-heralded Republican revolution will commence.

Eight hours of votes on measures to reform Congress and restore public confidence in that battered institution will be followed by a 99-day legislative blitz designed to transform America by rolling back big government. For the first time in 40 years, the Republicans will take control of both congressional houses, and the excitement and anticipation in Washington is almost comparable to a presidential inauguration.

Two years ago, President Clinton arrived in the capital with hugely ambitious plans that stalled in the face of Washington's famous institutional inertia. Now it is the Republicans' turn to see if they can deliver on their equally

to obstruct it. This will not be easy. The Republicans have slim majorities in both chambers — just six in the Senate, which is insufficient to surmount a Democratic filibuster, and 27 in the House.

Moreover, for Mr. Gingrich's two proposed constitutional amendments, one mandating a balanced federal budget and the other limiting congressional terms, Mr. Gingrich needs a two-thirds majority in each chamber.

The Democrats' strategy is to join battle on issues where they can hope to win over the eight Republican senators and 30 Republican congressmen who are considered centrists. They will challenge Mr. Gingrich's plans to cut taxes for all but the very wealthiest families, demand that the Republicans spell out how they would save \$200 billion (£128 billion) a year before approving the balanced budget amendment, and press for campaign finance and lobbying reform.

How much of the Gingrich programme the Senate will back is anyone's guess. It is more cautious than the House and its members more independent. Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, is considerably more moderate than Mr. Gingrich, but badly wants his party's 1996 presidential nomination, which is in the gift of the Right. He must also avoid being outflanked by Phil Gramm, the conservative Texas senator who is a rival for the nomination.

Public opinion remains fluid. The country has clearly rejected Mr. Clinton's government activism, but Democrats believe that the voters will also reject Mr. Gingrich's vision of a minimalist government when they see cherished programmes being axed. Equally, they may respond to a rare conviction politician.

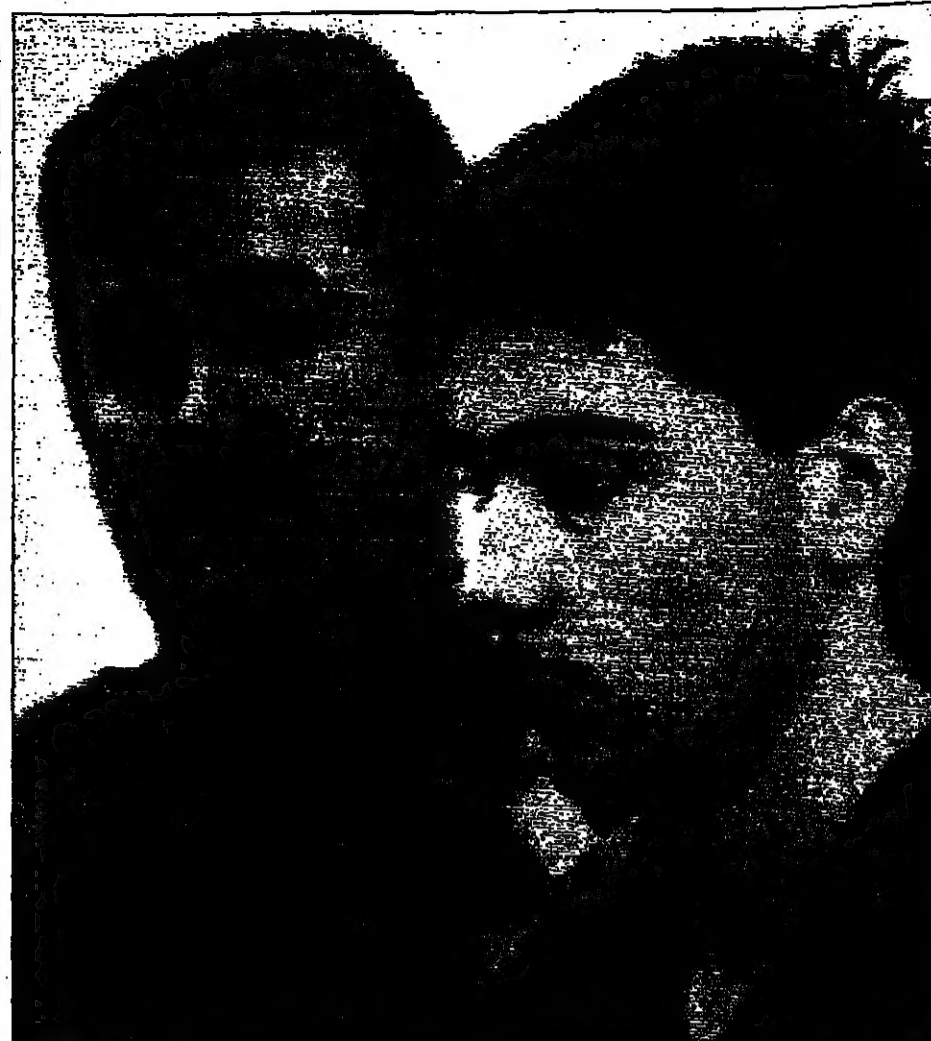
Mr. Gingrich faces one other immediate problem, and that is the administrative chaos caused by the change of regimes. Many congressmen and senators still lack permanent offices, committee memberships are still not finalised, and hundreds of Democratic staffers have yet to learn if they still have jobs. □ **Advocate:** Mr. Gingrich, leaving for Washington with 250 supporters, said the Republicans would make mistakes but told the Democrats they should not become the party that just says "no."

Indianapolis: Dan Quayle, 47, the former US Vice-President, has been admitted to hospital with appendicitis. Mr. Quayle, expected to announce his bid for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination soon, was discharged from the same hospital last month after treatment for blood clots in his lungs. (Reuters)

far-reaching promises. If they succeed, today could mark the start of a long era of Republican government at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. If they fail, many commentators believe a new third party could rise on the back of public dissatisfaction with the two old parties that is greater now than during the Depression.

On the surface, Mr. Gingrich's prospects look good. He has a clear mandate for radical change. His House Republicans, especially the 73 newcomers, are bursting with energy and purpose. Democrats are demoralised and unsure whether to confront or co-operate: the President is gravely weakened.

Mr. Gingrich's challenge, however, is to keep the Republicans united while generating sufficient public support for his programme that congressional Democrats, the President, and the Senate's more cautious Republicans will fear



John Salvi, 22, a hairdresser accused of murdering two women at abortion clinics in Boston, Massachusetts, appears in court yesterday in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was arrested on charges of shooting at a third clinic. He was remanded in custody.

Gingrich tries to clip the wings of TV's Big Bird

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH, who caused controversy in America by advocating orphanages, yesterday created a fresh uproar on children's topics by attacking funds for two of their favourite television characters, Big Bird and Barney.

The new Republican Speaker in the House of Representatives wants to sever all US government funds for public broadcasting, where Big Bird appears on *Sesame Street* and Barney, a plush purple dinosaur, has his own show.

In typically overheated rhetoric, Mr. Gingrich dismissed public radio and television as the province of an elitist "bunch of rich, upper-class people who want their toy to play with". As for Big Bird and Barney, they already made money through retailing and franchising deals. "These are profit-making centres and they would survive fine."

His assault has appalled the leaders of locally-run public broadcasting stations across the United States. They will fly to Washington next Tuesday for an emergency meeting on how to win a reprieve from Congress to keep the funds flowing. Richard Carlson, president of the Corporation

for Public Broadcasting, said that Mr. Gingrich had no idea how the system worked. Far from being elitist, *Sesame Street* and other educational programmes drew much of their audience from the poor. In Los Angeles, board members of the public station KCET are appearing on screen to urge viewers to complain to Congress.

America has no licence fee for television sets and the concept of public broadcasting has always struggled for acceptance, despite such excel-

lent programmes as *Masterpiece Theatre*, which features the best of British television drama. Conservatives have long accused public broadcasting of a liberal bias.

With the spread of cable systems, it is no longer the only network with quality programmes. Mr. Gingrich made his attack during an appearance on C-Span, the low-budget channel paid for by the cable industry to cover Congress.

This year the Corporation for Public Broadcasting will receive \$285 million (£184 million) from government coffers. The remainder of its budget of \$1.5 billion (£967 million) will come from corporate backers, retail sales and the frequent two-week "pledge breaks", the television equivalent of a begging bowl.

Mr. Gingrich thinks this pleading for funds is laudable. "If you love it, pay for it," he said. As an example to others, he promised to donate the \$2,000 proceeds from one speech every year for the next five years to a privately-funded Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Big Bird and Barney could not be reached for comment.



Gingrich: "If you love it, pay for it"

Hollywood hits put America in the mood for morons

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE top-grossing film over the holidays in America bore the less than alluring title *Dumb and Dumber*. The tale of two sophomoric friends who travel across country in search of Aspen, Colorado — which one thinks is in California and the other in France — has earned \$50 million (£32.5 million) in less than a month. But its success has Hollywood and its critics pondering the "dumbing down" of the American film industry that marked 1994. With Oscar nominations due by next month, voters are finding

themselves hard-pressed to name five films out of the record crop of 332 titles worthy of an Academy Award.

The tone was set by the runaway success of *Forrest Gump*, starring Tom Hanks as a man with an IQ of just 70 who sails successfully through life, blissfully unaware of its pitfalls. The film critic Rita Kempley neatly summed up the conventional wisdom in *The Washington Post*: "Movie-goers were in the mood for morons in 1994."

Offerings catering to the juvenile sense of humour

included *Airheads* and *IQ*, in which Albert Einstein fixes up his brilliant niece with a mechanic for fear that she will marry an intellectual psychologist.

Another critic, Bonnie Britton, summed up the mood thus: "Film historians consider 1939 to be the high water mark of Hollywood's dream factory with the *Wizard of Oz*. Gone with the Wind, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington and Stagecoach among the many gems. Will they someday call 1994 the year of Dim and Dimmer?"

Texas to execute man for murder by sister

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A MAN convicted of a murder that even his prosecutors now say he did not commit will be executed by lethal injection in Texas today.

The US Supreme Court refused to block the execution and, by 6-3, decided on Monday that it would not intervene to spare Jesse Dewayne Jacobs. In a dissenting opinion, two justices said they found the ruling "deeply troubling".

Jacobs was sentenced to death in 1987 after confessing to the murder. He later withdrew his confession, said his sister committed the crime in his presence, and added he

made the "confession" because he preferred execution to life imprisonment.

The state of Texas then put his sister on trial for murder. The same prosecutor who secured Jacobs' conviction acted, saying he now believed the sister had pulled the trigger. She was jailed for ten years.

An appeals court conceded the discrepancy, but argued it was "not for us to say" that the original jury was mistaken. □ **Belle Glade, Florida:** Five convicted murderers escaped from a jail in southeast Florida by tunnelling out from the prison chapel. (Reuters)

Dealer claims to have found new Poe verse

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Poe, the master technician whose handwriting on the discovered poem has been authenticated

A BOOK dealer in New Jersey has discovered what could be a previously unknown poem by Edgar Allan Poe inside a rare Poe first edition he bought at auction.

Don Stine of Ocean Township found the handwritten poem on a blank page at the front of a copy of Poe's *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* inscribed to Poe's cousin, Emily Virginia Chapman.

Mr. Stine bought the leather-bound, two-volume work for a client for \$63,000 (£42,000) at auction at Christies, but now believes it is a much more valuable work. The presence of Poe's handwritten dedication alone should triple the book's value. A spokeswoman for Christies pointed out that the market set the value of a work, and that the buyer appeared to have got a "bargain".

"I was astounded no one had looked at those pages

We only part to meet again
Thou mighty boundless
waves may sever
Remembrance oft shall
bring thee near
And I will with thee go
forever
And oft at midnight's silent
hour
When brilliant planets
shall guide the ocean
Thy name shall rise to
heaven's highest star
And mingle with my soul's
devotion.

The handwritten poem

before. It had been through two auction houses and a collector," Mr. Stine said. "If you bought a \$63,000 car, wouldn't you kick the tyres a little? I wonder if it went from Poe's pencil right to my eyes," he said. "That's what I find bizarre — that nobody may have ever seen this poem before."

The handwriting has been authenticated as Poe's, but there is no proof that Poe —

best known for his such stories as *The Fall of the House of Usher* — actually composed the poem. "Some poems may have been written by Poe's hand, but he may not have composed them," said David Kresh, a specialist at the US Library of Congress. "They may have been copied out by him."

Mr. Kresh said the rhythm of seventh line of the poem — which appeared to have an extra half beat — made him doubt that it was written by the author of such mellifluous verses as *The Raven* and *The Bells*.

"The scansion on that was a little clunky for Poe, who was a master technician," he said. "It didn't strike me particularly as Poe. It could be anyone in the 19th century, good or bad."

Christies said the Poe first edition had been handled by its rival Sotheby's and by several private collectors before going on sale at the auction house, and nobody had catalogued the poem inside.

Strike mars Hurd's Bangladesh visit

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS HURD, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Bangladesh yesterday as its fledgling democracy fought for its life. In Dhaka he saw deserted streets and shuttered shops on the second day of a general strike aimed at toppling the country's first freely elected government.

Mr Hurd praised Bangladesh's economic reforms as he extended aid worth £33 million to the country. A British High Commission statement said he had signed two aid agreements during his meeting with Saifur Rahman, the Finance Minister. The money will be used for gas infrastructure development, bridge improvement and maintenance projects.

Mr Hurd's trip was planned long ago: he stumbled into the chaos created by an opportunistic alliance of opposition parties that normally cannot abide each other. After years of dictatorship, there seem to be new opportunities for democratic forces to take control. Mr Hurd on a goodwill visit, kept a diplomatic distance from the turmoil.

In the main business district, riot police fired tear gas and charged crowds; hospitals admitted more than 50 injured people; banks and markets were closed; and attendance at government offices was low.

Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the dictator ousted four years ago, is casting a shadow over events from his Dhaka cell, where he lives in relative comfort. His Jatiya Party is among the groups that have boycotted parliament since March on the somewhat spurious grounds that the Government of Begum Khaleda Zia is corrupt and inept. Whatever the truth of these allegations, they seem scant justification for destroying the



In Dhaka, brought to a virtual halt on the second day of a general strike, Bangladeshi troops send a boy on his way

struggling democracy, given the shamotic nature of all administrations since the country was created 23 years ago. The general strike is to continue for a third day today, leaving the economy in an even more parlous state and further discrediting the democratic experiment.

About three-quarters of government spending in Bangladesh comes from foreign aid. However, aid routinely disappears into politicians' and bureaucrats' pockets. Ill-gotten

wealth co-exists with mass poverty. A Commonwealth mission to Dhaka in November failed to persuade the opposition to end its destructive campaign. Begum Zia, the Prime Minister, has offered to hand power to a neutral caretaker government a month before general elections early next year to ensure that the polls are not rigged — a significant gesture, given Bangladesh's history.

The opposition, led by the Awami League of Sheikh Ha-

sina Wajed, turned her down on the grounds that she intended to remain as caretaker prime minister and so would be able to rig the result. It is demanding that she resign immediately, install an interim administration and call an election. Sheikh Hasina has been joined in her campaign by Jamaat-Islami, the fundamentalist Islamic party, which her party has always loathed. The opposition is threatening to boycott elections if Begum Zia is still prime min-

ister during them. The army is ready to lend its weight if events run out of control. **Dhaka:** A magistrate's court agreed yesterday to defer the trial of the Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen for 12 days after her lawyers said a petition was pending in the High Court for the charges of blaspheming Islam to be dismissed. Ms Nasreen fled Bangladesh for exile in Sweden last year after Muslim fundamentalists threatened her life. (AFP)

Sri Lanka truce deal rekindles peace hope

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THE Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tiger guerrilla group agreed a truce yesterday in one of the most promising attempts for peace in 11 years of civil war. A formal cessation of hostilities will be announced soon.

There have been peace deals previously, but the election last year of a new administration in Colombo with a fresh approach has brought more opportunities for a negotiated settlement. The Tigers are notoriously fickle, however, and the deal cannot be regarded as anything like the final word.

K. Balapatabendi, the head of a government delegation that has been meeting rebel leaders in their stronghold, the Jaffna peninsula in the north of the island, said the Tigers were "no happy" with the agreement that they decided to release four Sinhalese policemen held for nearly four years. The Tigers have been waging war for a separate homeland in the north and east, claiming that they faced discrimination and hostility from the Sinhalese majority. Significant progress was made towards peace in 1987 and again in 1989-90, but to no avail.

The truce is a prelude to detailed "peace" talks, which will face the central question of how much autonomy, if any, should the Tamils be given in the north and east.

Debate will focus on whether the Colombo Government should agree to a federation or confederation in going some way to satisfying Tamil aspirations for autonomy.

British envoys defy death threats by Algerian extremists

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ISLAMIC extremists have warned British diplomats that all those who will be killed in cold blood. The warning was the same in the letter received by the British Embassy in Switzerland.

A year ago the Government warned Britons not to travel to Algeria and advised all those in the country to leave. British Embassy staff, housed in a

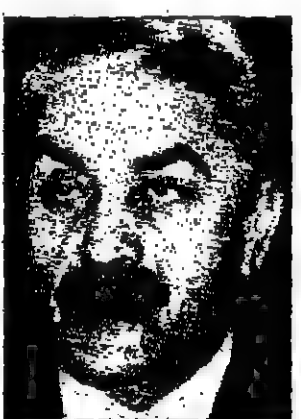
protected compound, have been reduced from six to four in the past month. Remaining British diplomats are being guarded by a Royal Military Police protection team.

The warnings are the latest in a stream of threats to Western interests in Algeria. More than 70 foreigners have been killed since the Armed Islamic Group told foreigners to leave the country last year.

President Zeroual of Algeria yesterday set up a ministerial committee to prepare by the end of June for presidential elections. The committee will be headed by Mokdad Sifi, the Prime Minister, and will include a representative from the Defence Ministry.

French government officials yesterday identified a third of the four hijackers killed in the storming of the Air France plane on December 26. He was named as Salim Layadi, 24, from Kouba in Algeria.

French officials said that all flights to Algeria would remain grounded for several weeks, possibly months.



Zeroual: assigned team to prepare for election

UN chief advocates new focus

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN NEW YORK

UN PEACEKEEPING operations should be streamlined to make them more efficient and make the world body to focus on long-range social issues, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, said.

In an interview in yesterday's New York Times he said that he planned to explain to the Security Council tomorrow why some peacekeeping operations have failed and others have been successful. On this year's 50th anniversary

of the United Nations, he told the paper that he wanted to update his 1992 Agenda for Peace and "project a new image of the United Nations after the end of the Cold War, dealing with the problems of tomorrow."

Short-term peacekeeping operations, Dr Boutros Ghali said, were taking up 70 per cent of his time and preventing the UN from concentrating on more pressing issues. The problems of the environment,

of underdevelopment, of the demographic explosion and illegal immigration are long-term problems that need more attention, he said.

The changes he is expected to propose to the Security Council include clearer mandates to avoid confusion between peacekeeping and enforcement operations, and strengthening a system of unified command.

UN disunity, page 14

Fighting flares in Bihac

Sarajevo: The United Nations pressed ahead with efforts to cement the latest Bosnian ceasefire yesterday, but fighting was reported in the Bihac enclave. The UN blamed renegade Muslim forces opposed to the Sarajevo Government for the clashes. It said the four-month ceasefire could be followed by a meeting this week of officials from the Contact Group on Bosnia. (Reuters)

Benefits of EU

Vienna: Prices for food and dairy products in Austria slid further yesterday in the wake of its entry into the European Union, with the country's once protected market now open to competition. (Reuters)

Human cargo

Bilbao: The crew of a Russian cargo ship found their cold store full of Ghanaian stowaways when it called at a Spanish port. Nine were caught but four leapt overboard and escaped. (Reuters)

Hanging date

Hong Kong: A woman, 25, from Hong Kong, whose execution for drug-trafficking was put off so that she could spend Christmas with her family, will now be hanged in Singapore on Friday. (Reuters)

Bodies robbed

Echague, Philippines: At least 29 people were killed, and their bodies plundered by thieves after the bus they were travelling in plunged more than 100ft from a bridge in the northern Philippines. (Reuters)

Dolphin rescue

Sydney: Australian marine experts and hundreds of islanders and tourists are racing against time in the tiny South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu to rescue 27 dolphins trapped in a lagoon. (Reuters)

East looks West to prop up ailing arms firms

FROM TIM JUDAH
IN BRATISLAVA

FIVE years after the demise of communism, one of Eastern Europe's largest employers and foreign currency earners is on its death bed. The arms industries that once churned out thousands of tanks and millions of bullets every year have practically ground to a halt.

Eastern European defence planners believe that by linking up with Western companies they can revive their production, but so far this remains a forlorn hope.

In 1988, Czechoslovakia was reported to be the world's fifth largest arms exporter. Poland was the seventh and Bulgaria thirteenth, ahead even of West Germany. Today, Poland's arms industry is reduced to production at 20 per cent of its previous capacity. Slovakia, once the regional power-

house for heavy equipment, has not produced a single tank since 1991. In desperation, its officials have been trawling the Third World for business and musing what they believe is the answer to their problems. It is the recently unveiled T72 M2, a "new and improved" old Soviet-era T72 tank.

Working in co-operation with Western firms, including Britain's GEC-Marconi, the Slovaks have stuffed the T72, the former warhorse of the Warsaw Pact, with various bits of Western high-tech equipment. The theory is that the new version will be almost as good as any Western tank but less than half the price. So far, the Slovaks have had no takers.

The end of the Cold War has devastated Eastern Europe's arms industries on several counts. Most production was destined for the armies of the now defunct Warsaw Pact. Tightly controlled by the Soviet

Union, each country of the bloc was assigned to particular manufacturing tasks. So, apart from Russia itself, they depended on each other for the equipment they needed.

Today, with defence budgets a fraction of what they were, Eastern Europe's armies barely have enough cash to keep their existing equipment running, let alone buy new systems.

Hard cash from countries such as Iraq, Libya and Syria, which took a high proportion of exports has dried up, either because they are under UN embargos, have no money or because such sales provoke Western protests.

Meanwhile, the global arms trade has contracted. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute the trade in large items was worth \$46 billion (£31 billion) in 1987. By 1993 it was \$22 billion. In the past year, only the Czech Republic and Bulgaria have

made any significant exports. The Czechs make a competitive jet trainer plane, while the Bulgarians have once again bled their industry to the Russian bandwagon. They make basic hardware and components and, according to a report published in Sofia last week, military exports for last year were up 140 per cent compared to the 1993.

But in general, it seems unlikely that the vast Eastern European combines can ever recover their former glory. Kremlin planners made sure that the Eastern Europeans had few domestic research and development capabilities and these are now far too expensive to begin from scratch.

Western European arms manufacturers who are working on joint ventures in Poland can do limited business but, in the long run, Western firms want to sell to the East, not help the competition recover.

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Too many people, from insurance companies to lock makers and breeders of guard dogs, want to keep us scared of crime

Who's afraid of the big, bad world?

THERE USED to be a Fleet Street ritual in which a hapless young reporter was sent out after every murder to pound the streets collecting comments for a piece titled "The Town that Walks in Fear". A contemporary of mine was dispatched on this errand after a stabbing in Southampton in the Seventies, and committed a terrible solecism.

After a few hours chatting to phlegmatic bus queues and untroubled laundrette users, she rang her news editor and rashly said: "No, actually, nobody seems very worried; they just say it's another drunken sailor, and what could you expect in that pub?" Her editor roared at her that he didn't know what graduate trainees were coming to, and ordered her to find a terrified housewife or else. In the end, she became a social worker.

She would have done better today. A new poll for a Radio 4 programme confirms what other surveys — and the

evidence of one's own ears and in-laws — have long indicated. As a nation we love to Walk in Fear. Our dread of violent crime outweighs the likelihood of our meeting it by a factor of around 12:1. The average person believes that a quarter of us will be victims in the next 12 months; the real figure is under 2 per cent. Elderly women are the most frightened — although, since most victims are young men, they really ought to be worrying about their grandsons.

The producer, Sue Davies, has described fear of crime as a neurosis of the age, as sex was for the Victorians. But in our case the neurosis is stoked up deliberately. There are plenty of institutions, opinion-formers and politicians who have a positive stake in making us

frightened of crime. The hackneyed example is the press; and it is true that newspapers can be hysterical, spinning out the reporting of one unusual assault on an old lady to cover several days, and droming on about the collapse of civilisation. Far more teenagers help out at old people's day centres than ever mug pensioners, but they are not news.

Broadsheet newspapers can be as bad: in 1988, on a sailing journey round Britain, I bought the Sunday papers. A woman had been murdered on a motorway verge, and there were several epically silly articles by woman journalists, to the effect that



LIBBY PURVES

no woman is safe, and none of us should go out alone, anywhere, ever again. Since I had spent two months trudging round roughish harbour towns asking kindly skin-heads the way to the launderette, I found this metropolitan panic a bit much.

But the press is not alone. What about the insurance companies, the makers of window locks and burglar alarms, the breeders of huge black dogs, the private security firms? The police, even? Loath though I am to criticise anyone in the front line, some forces do seem to put more energy into

up everything like Fort Knox, than they do into patrol and detection.

They, at least, are only trying to save money. Coining it in are the crime writers and the TV cop industry. Detective fiction used to be a picaresque genre, revelling in the intricacy of its plotting and the exotic, Orient-Express nature of its felonies. Its villains, moreover, were properly fiendish, and got put away.

Now every other paperback invites you "inside the mind of a psychopath" as if that were somehow a rewarding place to be. Films and TV series — like the excellent, subtle, and deeply corrupt *Cracker* — focus lovingly on the abnormal, delivering the message that any harmless-looking person on the street could be longing to stick a motiveless

knife into us. Of true-crime programmes enough has been said: their defenders claim that they increase "awareness of crime issues" but not "fear of crime". These people's hobby, clearly, is the breeding of flying pigs.

AND THE politicians? Well, they like to be seen bustling about fighting for us, and the bigger the enemy looks the braver they seem. It helps them to have something — criminals and tearaways — that we can all rage about together: it gives a momentary illusion of national unity.

Besides, politicians prefer us huddled indoors, under control, taking our cue from television rather than from life. They do not want us marching, meeting in pubs and halls, using up valuable building land to kick footballs on, or agitating for clean and decent town centres. They like us frightened. Docilely, we oblige.

My vision to realise a capital's beauty

Magnus Linklater suggests a millennium plan that would make Edinburgh a magnificent city

Today the Millennium Commission officially opens its doors for business and begins accepting applications for funds to back projects up and down the country intended mark the year 2000. The nation has been encouraged to think big.

As well as hundreds of worthy schemes which are likely to be helped along, the commission is looking for about a dozen grand projects which "seek to capture the spirit of our age in enduring landmarks that symbolise our hope for the future". It says it will devote half of the £1.7 billion it expects to raise to make them happen.

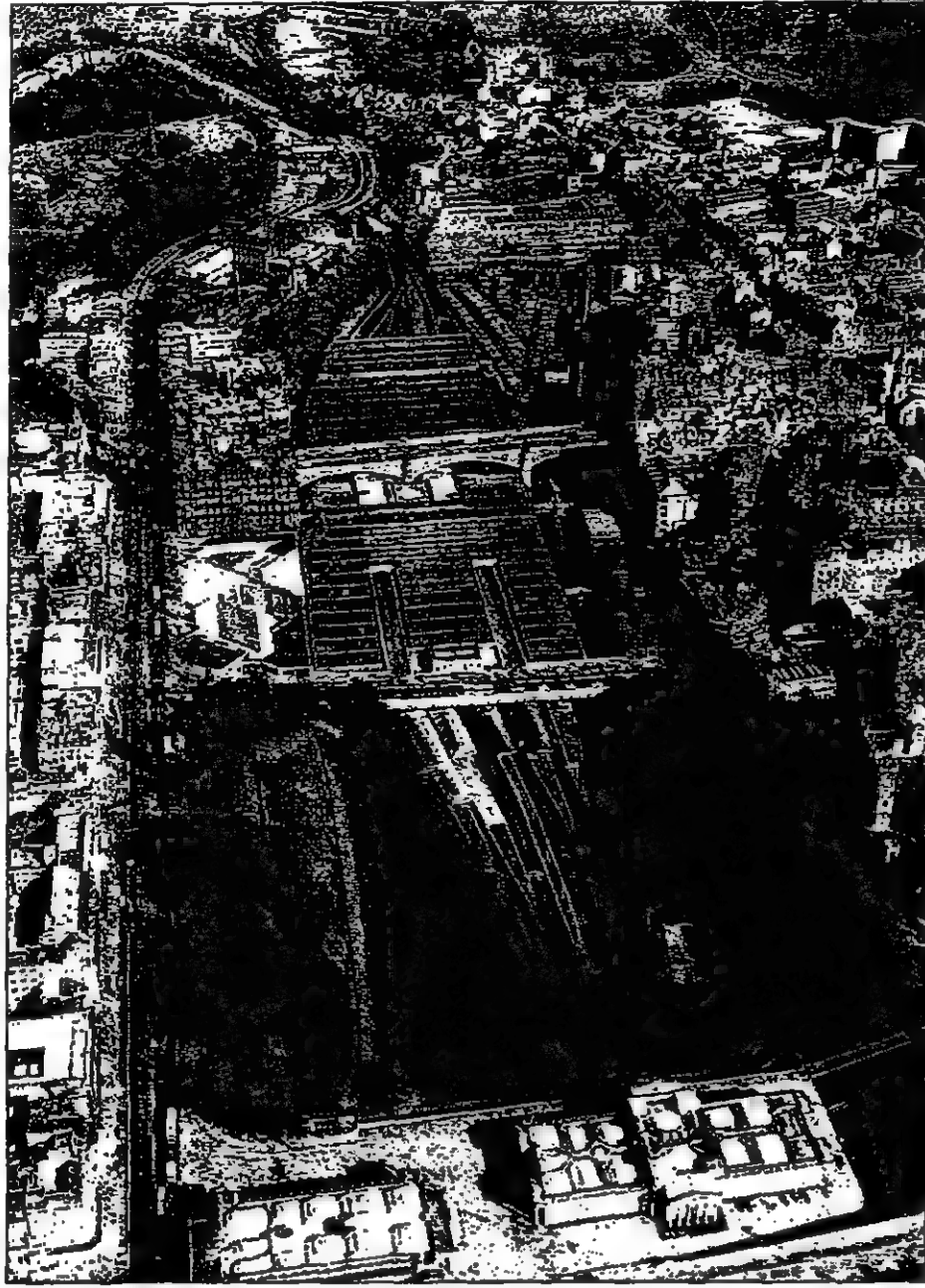
So how well has the nation responded? Are the great landmarks which the commission seeks "to turn hopes and dreams into reality" ready and waiting? The answer is perhaps not as clear-cut as the commissioners might have hoped. That was, perhaps, inevitable, given that no one has ever been entirely clear what a millennium project is. Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for National Heritage,

came up with the nearest definition when he said: "It's a bit like an elephant, you recognise it when you see it." But that now seems a little inadequate. There is still no agreement on what constitutes an elephant, and how to tell when it is a white one.

Broadly speaking, the ideas produced so far fall into three categories: the big architectural schemes; those which help the environment; science and technology projects. Some of them, like the Cardiff Bay Opera House, the conversion of the Bankside power station to house the Tate's modern art collection, Manchester's national sports stadium, or the development of an "Albertopolis" linking the South Kensington museums in London, are already familiar.

Some ideas, like saving Stonehenge, would probably be done anyway. Others, like the construction of a giant Ferris wheel higher than the Palace of Westminster, sound fun, but are not of the permanent kind which presumably the millennium requires.

The environmental schemes, such as a 5,000-mile



Waverley Station in the centre of Edinburgh: the area was never meant to be like this

cycle network across the country, or the regeneration of the English hedgerow, are hard to object to, but raise different problems. The replanting of the Caledonian Forest in Scotland, for instance, is a wonderfully romantic idea, which I trust will happen in some form or other, though none of us will be around to see the results. It will, however, either

involve the wholesale purchase of thousands of acres of land by the Government, or a massive and continuing subsidy to private landowners. The Millennium Commission has already said it wants partnership schemes. Who would be the partner here?

These, together with plans for science parks and national databases, are reasonably well-researched. Elsewhere, however, forward-planning is in distinctly short supply. The clock has now started to tick, and the closing date for entries is Easter. Three-and-a-half months is not a lot of time for a millennium project.

Scotland, it seems to me, is well behind the competition. Of the major projects, apart from the replanting of the Caledonian Forest, little is down on paper. Edinburgh has a list of ideas, but none which yet has the full backing of the city. Glasgow has two: a new opera and ballet theatre for the north bank of the Clyde, and a science and discovery centre on the old garden festival site. But there is still a great deal of preparatory work to be done if the commissioners are to be convinced that Scotland needs yet another opera house.

Elsewhere there are ideas such as a canal to link the Forth and the Clyde, though that seems to be fading somewhat: a science park for Dundee; a later-day Domesday Book using the latest technology to log all Scotland's plants, animals and microscopic organisms; a Gaelic heritage centre on Skye.

This does not strike me as good enough. I therefore submit a scheme of my own. It has three advantages which should appeal to the commis-

sion: it would create a monument grand enough to "capture the spirit of the age"; it would realise a vision but would also benefit the public; it is very far from a routine scheme which "would otherwise be met from public expenditure".

The idea would be to produce a new plan for the centre of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, to complete and enhance the Waverley Valley which runs from west to east through its centre and which makes it, potentially, one of Europe's most magnificent cities. This great rift, which divides the new and the old parts of the city, ends abruptly in

Waverley Station, whose roofs are presently an eyesore. It was never meant to be like this. The great town-planner Sir Patrick Geddes called it "half-ruined to the beauty of Edinburgh... the most fortuitous bungle in the long history of cities". Yet beyond, and to the east, lies one of the greatest vistas any city could enjoy — the natural framework of Arthur's Seat and the Calton Hill. Now is the time to open it up.

Five years ago, when I was editor of *The Scotsman*, we launched a competition to devise a scheme that would complete the job. One of the three entries selected, produced by the architectural firm of Troughton McAslan, went on to receive outline planning permission. It envisaged creating a "green valley" with a landscaped deck over the eastern end of Princes Street, creating an open plaza. Waverley Bridge would be removed, but the station retained, with a glass roof. Arches under North Bridge would be glazed over in the style of the Grande Louvre pavilion in Paris. The whole effect would be to make open and inviting that which is at present closed and ugly.

There may well be other approaches to the job, but this one has the advantage of being well-prepared. The plans, properly costed, are in the hands of the city's district council. Those who need to know have been briefed. The groundwork has been completed. I rest my case.

Those ruling more than the airwaves

Martin Fletcher on the influence of America's talk-show hosts



Rush Limbaugh: the master

The right-wing rabble-rousers of American radio can congratulate themselves as the Republicans take control of Congress today for the first time in 40 years. But it is also dawning on them that the only thing worse than having Democrats in power is having Democrats out of power.

The phenomenal rise of America's right-wing radio began in 1987 when the Reagan Administration abolished the so-called "fairness doctrine" mandating balanced broadcasting. In the seven years since, the number of talk shows has more than quadrupled from 238 to 1,108, with nearly three-quarters of the hosts being self-proclaimed conservatives who delighted in breaching the media's complacent liberal ascendancy.

The supreme master is Rush Limbaugh, whose show claims 20 million listeners. The round 43-year-old has written two huge bestsellers. His influence is such that in 1993 the right-wing *National Review* declared him "the Leader of the Opposition". The day after the Republicans' victory in the November elections, Mr Limbaugh repeatedly played James Brown's "I Feel Good", and proclaimed that America had just made "one of the most massive shifts to the right in any country in any year since the history of civilisation". Another radio host, Gordon Liddy, the former Watergate burglar, informed his listeners that "this marks the end of the dreadful, disastrous, venal, corrupt, sleazy Clinton presidency".

These airwave motorists were celebrating not just the Republicans' great triumph, but their own role in bringing it about. For two years Mr Limbaugh and his imitators had spewed forth a torrent of invective against President Clinton and his Democratic allies in Congress.

True, the Democrats still hold the White House, but Clinton-bashing has lost much of its appeal now that the President has been sidelined. Hillary Clinton has inconsiderately retreated from the limelight. Joycelyn Elders, the Surgeon-General whose support for condoms in schools and legalising drugs made her a punchbag, has been sacked.

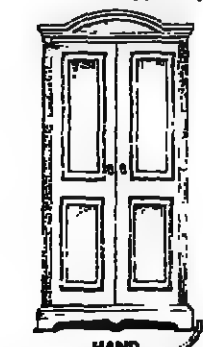
The Republicans are meanwhile co-opting the radio hosts as de facto party spokesmen. Newt Gingrich, the new House Speaker, has invited them to cover today's historic opening session from Capitol Hill. He plans to meet them regularly, and recently refused to interrupt a radio talk-show interview to take a telephone call from the President. "I don't have a prayer of getting my message out with the elite media," Mr Gingrich explained.

Before they know it, these scourges of the Establishment may find themselves part of the Establishment. The signs are there. They raised scarcely a protest when Mr Gingrich signed a \$4.5 million book contract last month, though they would have denounced Tom Foley, Mr Gingrich's Democratic predecessor, for exploiting his public office had he done such a thing.

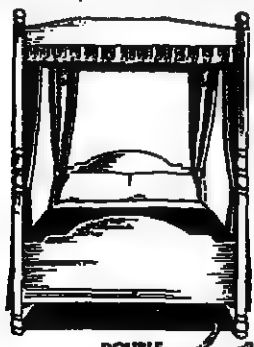
There are a few liberal talk-show hosts, though to date they have had little impact. But in the Republicans' new ascendancy may be their opportunity. Mr Gingrich, Jesse Helms and their colleagues offer inviting targets. The liberals may also soon have a new star recruit. The New York media executive who discovered Mr Limbaugh has offered a contract to Mario Cuomo, America's most eloquent and articulate Democrat. Mr Cuomo lost the New York governorship in November, but would be of far greater service to his party as the Limbaugh of the left.

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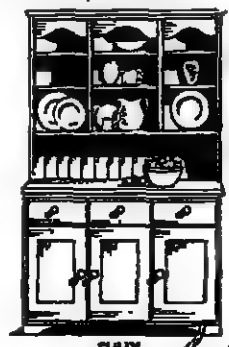
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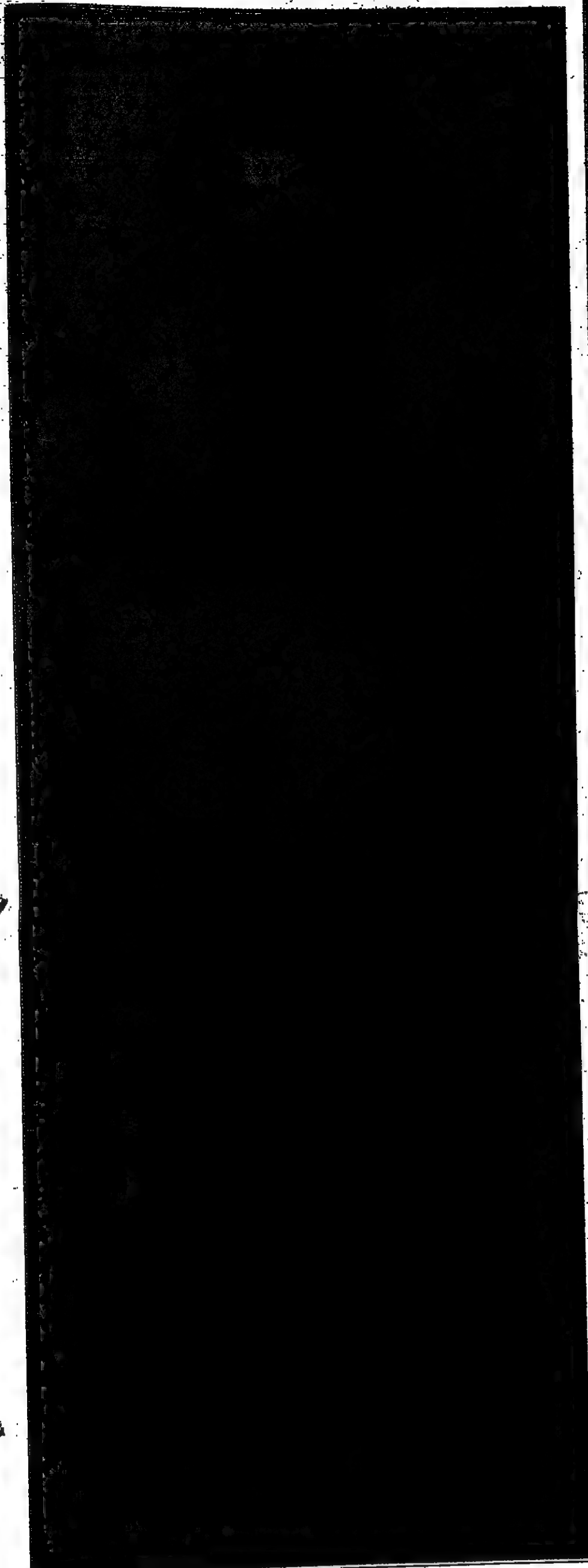
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Baby it's cold outside



ABOVE: Grey marl jacket, £180; matching wide pants, £95, Thomas Burberry (071-630 3343). Black wool polo-neck, £21, Marks and Spencer, selected branches nationwide (071-631 4422). Black patent loafers, £39.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (071-631 0224).
CENTRE TOP: Brown fleck jacket, £79; matching trousers, £49, J. Taylor, Dabenhams, selected branches nationwide (071-486 4444). Black cardigan, £89.50, Burberry, as above.
FAR RIGHT: Brown wool/silk tweed berrington jacket, £80 (reduced from £159); chocolate 'twill' waistcoat, £42 (from £95); matching trousers, £52 (from £105), Liz Claiborne, House of Fraser, stores nationwide. Black patent loafers, £95, Patrick Cox (071-730 6504).
RIGHT: Grey wool pinstripe jacket, £139 (from £229); matching trousers, £89 (from £139), Susan Woolf, 9-18 Brompde Rd, SW3; 5 Union St, Bath; 63 George St, Edinburgh. Beige sweater, £65, Burberry, as above. Sheer black tights, £3.25, Aristoc, department stores nationwide. Black patent loafers, Ravel, as above.
Photographs by RICHARD LOHR.
Make-up by Mary Jane Frost. Hair by Kevin Ford for Steven Carey using Paul Mitchell products.

A brand new year, and the glossy fashion magazines are already bursting with brand new ideas: for spring/summer 1995. Everywhere you look there are high-rise heels, hemlines and hairdos. Tempting, but not exactly realistic when temperatures fall below zero, and the stores are still full of winter stock bearing bargain price-tags.

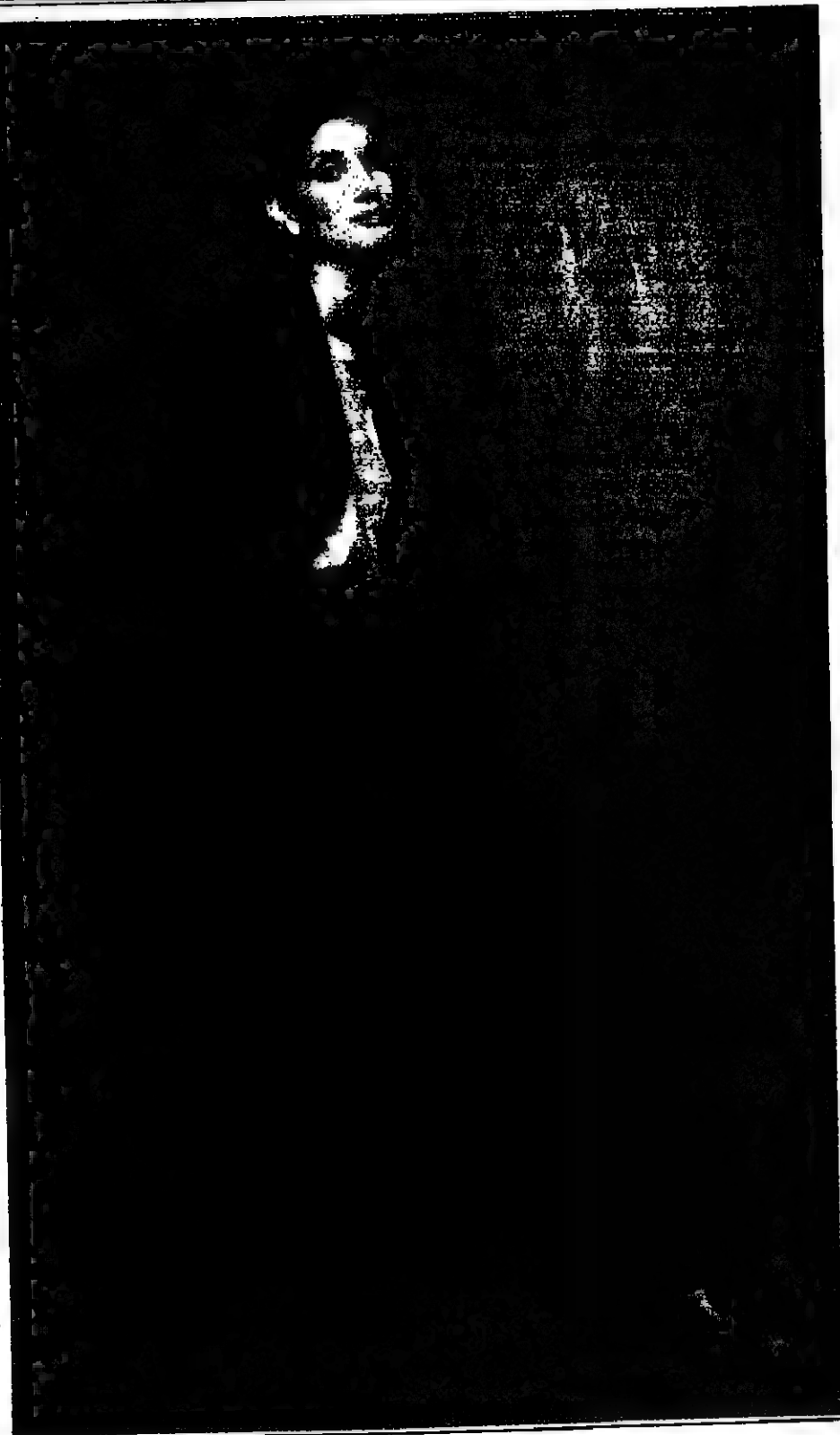
"Nothing to wear?" asks the coverline on the January issue of *Vogue* magazine, which features a photograph of the supermodel Kate Moss, naked save for a perfectly made-up face and matching manicured nails. An arresting image, but hardly one which offers an answer.

Between its pages *Vogue* presents the "transseasonal wardrobe". But what is this, pictured, other than a double-breasted coat and a lambswool twinset, really looks as if it

might keep out the cold reality of a British winter.

Moving between the seasons is not easy at the best of times. What is needed right now is something which is both comfortable and comforting. Something which keeps you warm without looking overly relaxed. Sloppy-Joe sweaters and thick woollen leggings are great for the weekend, but what to wear the rest of the time? Look no further than the trouser suit. Not only will it keep you well covered, it also neatly evades the question of skirt length — a godsend for any woman who has not yet worked the new, knee-length hemline into her wardrobe.

The trouser suit inevitably finds itself pushed to the fore when fashion changes direction or



Fashion
IAN R. WEBB

moves too far, too fast. Fashion editors may have embraced the new hemline — at the last round of designer shows, female knees were bared as much off the catwalk as on — but the look is yet to catch on among the populace, especially during the long winter months.

Designers can no longer afford to be as dictatorial as once they were. There are few collections which do not offer a trouser suit or two as an alternative — even when, with a season like spring/summer 1995, dresses are the favoured silhouette at the cutting edge.

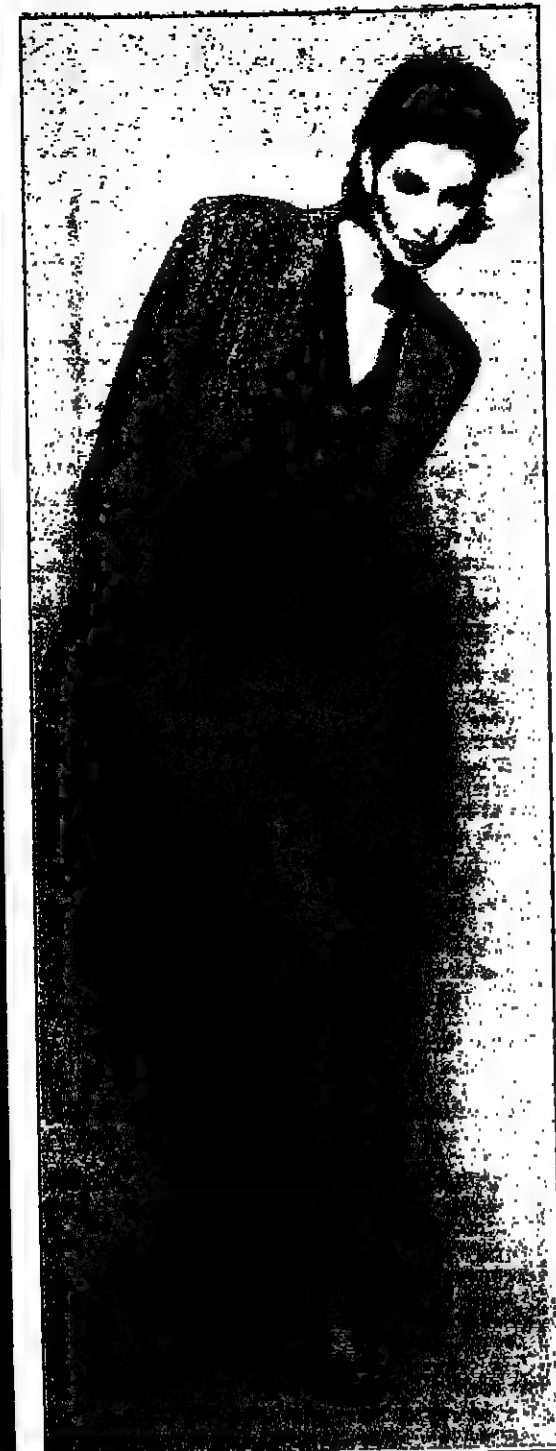
This season's trouser suits acknowledge their masculine delineation. Shoulders are more pronounced, and fabric more mannish. There

are plenty of variations to be found at the winter sales — KL by Karl Lagerfeld, CK at Selfridges, Jaeger, Principles, Paul Costello, French Connection, Austin Reed, MaxMara and Jil Sander. Most notably, the suit should appear a little on the large size, almost as though borrowed from the wardrobe of a husband or boyfriend.

This look steals from those Hollywood heroines whose androgynous off-screen appearance seemed at odds with their on-screen role-model way of dressing. Katharine Hepburn and Lauren Bacall made the look very much their own, both favouring baggy trouser suits worn with roll-neck sweaters and loafers.

Which is exactly the way to dress it down this winter, the only hint of glamour the gloss of a patent shoe or the twinkle of a gilt button. What to wear when it's cold outside? Nothing fits the bill better.

The simple, sober
trouser suit — cut with
room to spare — comes to
the rescue as winter
winds snap at your legs



● THE dictates of the fashion circus have put animal printed fabric back in vogue. One of its best uses is in accessories. Gordana Christmas has a new range of scarves which includes fake leopard. Priced from £48, the scarves can be found at branches of House of Fraser, Selfridges and Harrods.

● AGNES B, the queen of understated French chic, has opened a third outlet in London. The new site at 235 Westbourne Grove, W11 stocks her collection of stylish separates for men and women. 111 Fulham Road will now concentrate exclusively on women's and children's wear, while the Floral Street branch has the entire clothing and beauty range.

● A VIVienne Westwood fashion show is something to behold. Jam-packed with faithful Westwood fans, eager press and buyers, they never start on time, or even near, but are always worth waiting for. Hailed as one of the greatest designers of the 20th century, Westwood is the subject of a

documentary being repeated this week. Directed by Mike Figgis, *On Liberty* includes footage from her autumn-winter '94 fashion show, interviews with Ms Westwood and muse Naomi Campbell, and backstage antics. Tune in to BBC2 on Friday at 8pm.

● THE design duo behind the Dolce & Gabbana label are soon to become familiar faces. Their advertising campaign for spring-summer '95, with photography by Michel Comte, features Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana modelling their latest menswear range. The womenswear is modelled by Brooke Shields and Isabella Rossellini, playing the parts of Joan Crawford and Anna Magnani respectively. Dolce and Gabbana are also taking cameo roles in a new film, *The Man of the Stars*, by the Italian director Giuseppe Tornatore. Dolce will play a Sicilian shepherd and Gabbana, a photographer. All will be revealed if the film makes it to the Cannes festival.

RACHEL COLLINS

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Alan Coren



■ This is the day of days, to coin a phrase — if you write plays

You are, I know (and rarely a genuflecting bedtime passes when I do not offer up heartfelt thanks for it) as literate a readership as any show-off hack could wish. And yet I wonder whether even you realise how momentous is the date which stands just to the northeast of this column. I wonder whether you know that it marks the 400th anniversary of the day on which William Shakespeare wrote the line: "And thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought."

He did not, of course, incorporate it professionally for a good five years. I know that you know that until he stumbled across François de Belleforest's *Histoires Tragiques* early in 1590 he had no inkling of the existence of a melancholy Danish procrastinator for whose temporising lips this corking observation might have been minuted, thus enabling Shakespeare to build a major showstopper around it. On January 4, 1595, the line had come into his head for no other reason than that he had just (a) started smoking again, (b) come off his diet, and (c) gone back on the sauce, after only three excruciatingly resolute days. And four centuries on, we sympathise. We understand just how it happened. We know the inevitable fate of resolutions after they have come under pressure from thinking.

Here is Shakespeare on New Year's Eve 1594, just finished *Romeo and Juliet* against a murderous deadline, and coughing his lungs to tatters on his fifth pipe of the night, doubtless cursing Raleigh for importing the muck in the first place. Remember, too, that smoking was even nastier than it is now, since this was long before the invention of the cigarette (otherwise Christopher Marlowe's celebrated curse on those "who love not tobacco and small boys" might well have read "flags and small boys" and got an even bigger laugh), and involved a crude frangible pipe which time and again either stuck to the lip or broke in the teeth — and furthermore, if the latter, ignited the croch — so that smokers despised themselves even more than they do today.

That Shakespeare was also grossly overweight is beyond contention: everybody was, for which they again had Raleigh to thank. The average Elizabethan consumed ten pounds of fashionable spuds a day, sliced down with enough booze to provide Shakespeare with more references to it than to anything else in his concordance. Ignore, therefore, the First Folio frontispiece, which was for gentle Shakespeare cut, wherein the graver had a strife with nature to out-do the life that was just Ben Jonson blurring for an easy great beneath a cosmetic publicity snap. Shakespeare in fact weighed a Falstaff-and-a-half, much of it liver.

Which was why, 400 years ago last Sunday, he simultaneously foreswore food, drink and weed; a regimen which worked fine for perhaps two hours. He then, as adumbrated hereinabove, began to think about it. For having just been signed up by the Lord Chamberlain as both actor and dramatist, he was contractually obliged not only to turn out each night in that season's pantalo as Gammur Gurnon's daft son Jack, but also to get cracking on his *Richard II* script, a project, as you know, singularly close to Elizabeth's heart.

Picture it. William sits in his icy dressing-room, straw in his hair, an idiot grin chalked over his miserably quill-chewing mouth, and the eyes closed in readiness for Jack's first entrance, staring inaccurately at a pile of blank paper on which the trembling hand is expected to scribble a real better to keep the monstrous virgin sweet. But his throat is dry, his stomach rumbles, the ghost of nicotine past fills mischievously across his tongue, and these are all he can think about.

Until, next day, he thinks: a little snort of sack would get me going, a nice fat hare would give me strength, a puff or two of shag would clear the head no end; my work needs them. But resolution holds. Until, next day, he thinks: this is not me, I am a cakes-and-ale man, my smoke-rings set the table on a roar, they loved me then, but who will love me now? Yet still the will, in punning loyalty, remains intact. Until day three. Day three he thinks: what, live forever? Better to put a happy clog at 52 than doddle on, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything. Day four didn't stand a chance. It rarely does.



But it is a class issue

Roy Hattersley argues that Labour must end the public schools' charity status

Attacks on the independent schools, said Gillian Shephard, are "attacks on choice and diversity". That is not true. But it is an attractive deception. *Choice and Diversity* — the title of the Government's education White Paper — is superficially an admirable policy, which falls apart only on detailed examination. Refuting the simple lie with the complicated truth is always a difficult political task, but it is one which Labour has to face head-on. The party's radical reputation and its hopes of becoming a genuinely reforming government depend on providing an education system that meets the need of the whole population. That requires the myth of choice to be exploded.

For the Tory party, the presence that parental choice is possible has two advantages. It gives a spurious respectability to the middle classes' determination to obtain a superior education for their sons and daughters. And it makes possible a surreptitious return to secondary selection. The selection which it provides is educationally and socially more divisive than the old 11-plus. For pupils are enrolled in schools not according to their aptitude and ability, but on the basis of their social background. As a result, working-class children — some of them with outstanding ability — are relegated to schools which other parents have rejected.

Parental choice could exist only if the schools which are perceived to be the best were able to take all the pupils applying for places in them. In practice, when the minority of "good" schools are full, the generality of children go to their neighbourhood comprehensive — or rather what is called their neighbourhood comprehensive. In reality, the existence of socially selective grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges has turned many comprehensives into replicas of the old secondary moderns.

Since the schools which are perceived to be "good" will be oversubscribed, some sort of procedure has to determine who is accepted. Normally, that turns out to be not the selection of schools by parents, but the selection of pupils (perhaps even parents) by head teachers. Typical is Queen Elizabeth's School in Barnet, which sets out "admission criteria" stipulating what it expects from pupils and their families. Failure to live up to these expectations will, the prospectus concludes, produce a "conflict" between home and school, and "if such a situation were to arise, we would

reserve the right to resign our charge". Parents who believe they are good enough for Queen Elizabeth's are "invited to interview". It is a strange system of "parental choice" which requires the parents to be interviewed by the school rather than vice versa.

As a result of head teacher selection, a league table of schools develops in the public mind. In a sense, the perception of a hierarchy is justified. For schools which can select intelligent pupils from highly motivated families will produce the best examination results — particularly if, being grant-maintained, they also receive a disproportionate share of educational resources, and, being the easiest schools in which to teach, recruit the most highly qualified staff.

The establishment of a number of selective schools, highly esteemed and producing excellent results, is obviously satisfying to the fortunate parents who obtain places within them. No doubt they will say so to David Blunkett when he consults them as promised. But it is deeply damaging to the educational prospects of the rest — the majority — of the community. There is no doubt who "the rest" will be. The sort of admission policy practised by Queen Elizabeth's in Barnet is biased in favour of the articulate and prosperous. Deprived and disadvantaged families lack both knowledge and self-confidence. Whichever there is competition for scarce resources, they are elbowed out of the way by the determined middle classes. A system of secondary selection which is based on parental choice means freedom (of a sort) for a few but reduced opportunities for most families.

Schools at the top of the league will certainly receive a disproportionate share of funds. They will, the Government White Paper says, have the largest number of applications for places, and "the more pupils the school attracts, the larger its budget". Labour intends to concentrate educational investment in the areas that need most help. A Labour government will provide extra resources for inner-city schools with large num-

bers of children who live in poverty or from families which speak English as a second language. But in between the two extremes — schools which are rewarded for their excellence, and those which are helped with special difficulties — there will be dozens of others which are regarded as inferior to the "best" but not needing the special assistance given to the "worst". Once again, the generality of children will be neglected.

If we are serious about improving standards, we need an allocation policy which promotes and ensures fair sharing of resources. Parents should be asked to nominate a school. Assuming

that there are no more applications than places, every family would enjoy true parental choice. An over-subscribed school should give preference to pupils with siblings already on the roll. If that does not balance supply and demand, the only reasonable admission criterion is

proximity. Pupils who live closest to the school should be preferred. This would protect working-class families close to a school against middle-class parents (perhaps from distant suburbs) talking their way into unfair advantage.

Gillian Shephard would have been right had she claimed that Labour's education policy would reduce freedom for some — in fact a small minority — of parents. But it is the duty of a democratic government to adjudicate between conflicting liberties. In a civilised society, there can be no freedom for the prosperous and articulate to monopolise benefits which should be shared with the timid poor. A genuinely comprehensive system of secondary education would entrench far more freedom than it would sacrifice. It would protect the liberty of millions of families who wish to send their sons and daughters to well-staffed and properly funded schools, but who are now denied that opportunity, because spending policy is based on the heresy that some schools are more important than others.

The same libertarian argument applies to Labour's attitude towards the

public schools. While independent education exists, we will never concentrate sufficient resources on the state system. The rich and privileged — worrying always about their taxes — will take no real interest in state schools while their sons and daughters are educated privately. Apologists for a class-based system will justify private education with sentimental nonsense about providing "escape routes" for poor but talented pupils. Putting aside the fact that hardly any poor but talented pupils win places in independent schools, the argument against "escape routes" is overwhelming. Our national education system should not be a process from which the fortunate minority needs to escape. That concept confirms that the children who are left behind are condemned to endure the second-rate.

There is also a question of spending priorities. Labour is constantly warned that it will not be able to finance all of its social programme. The aspiration to universal nursery education has not become a firm commitment because no one can be sure where the money would come from. How can we justify subsidising Eton and Harrow's fees — which is what charity status effectively does — instead of using such hand-outs to provide pre-school places in inner cities?

The Government believes that its slogan of "choice and diversity" is viscerally popular with voters in marginal seats. Labour must not make the same strategic error. Despite its social bias, a system of covert selection disadvantages thousands of suburban families. Once they discover that there are not enough "good" schools to go round, they will turn against the hierarchy of parental selection in the way they turned against the old 11-plus when their children were allocated to underfunded secondary moderns.

It took the Labour Party 20 years to summon the courage to tell the truth about the municipal grammar schools, which each year enrolled 120 talented 11-year-olds from supportive families, taught them in small classes yet sent less than 10 per cent on to higher education. That is a record of which most comprehensive schools would be ashamed. The time has now come for similar hard truths to be told about the consequences of a system designed to meet the needs of a few, rather than all the nation's pupils. Charitable status for public schools should go, and go quickly.

Waldheim is still unwelcome

Robert Rhodes

James on a ticklish problem for the UN

This will be a year of many anniversaries, but one has been generally overlooked. It will be the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, created with many high expectations, but often unfairly depicted, especially in the United States, as a failure.

One period that UN officials recall with no pleasure was the decade when Kurt Waldheim was its Secretary-General. Writing with admirable restraint, Sir Brian Urquhart, who devoted virtually all of his adult life to the world organisation, has observed that "Waldheim, emerging as a living lie, has done immense damage not only to his own country but to the United Nations and to those who have devoted, and in some cases sacrificed, their lives for it... We used to speculate on just how far Waldheim would go to get publicity. We saw him as two people: Waldheim Mark I, a scheming, ambitious duplicitous egomaniac ready to do anything for advantage or public acclaim; and Waldheim Mark II, the statesmanlike leader who kept his head while all about him were losing theirs and was prepared to follow our advice in great international crises. These and other fantasies seem rather less funny now."

Nothing was funny about serving in Waldheim's private office, as I did for more than three years. His qualities, and particularly a quite remarkable capacity for hard work, were made unpalatable by his volcanic temper, the absence of anything like a sense of humour, exceptional vanity, and (that least edifying of all deficiencies in a boss) the habit of taking all the credit when things go right and blaming others when things go wrong. But we told ourselves that we were servants of the UN, not of one man, and worked in that spirit.

It was the revelation that he had consistently lied about his war record that shocked us, rather than the record itself, although subsequent revelations about his role in Yugoslavia and in Greece (with more to come) made our disgust still greater. The official British verdict on his part in the execution of British commandos was that although he had indeed participated in war crimes, he was not a war criminal. Lawyers may be satisfied by this, but few others will be.

Such a man should then seek the presidency of his country, and actually be elected, made the situation even more astounding. The Austrians belatedly discovered that they had elected someone who was virtually an international pariah and was actually banned from entering the United States. This began a long overdue reassessment of Austria's role in the Nazi tyranny, starting with the realisation that Hitler himself, and some of the worst of his ugly henchmen and mass murderers, were Austrian. This was just about the only good thing that emerged from this astonishing debacle.

When Waldheim, most reluctantly, agreed not to stand for re-election as President, there was widespread relief, and not least at the UN, where all traces of him, including his portrait (on which someone had thoughtfully painted a swastika) have been obliterated. If he is spoken about at all by his erstwhile colleagues, it is in terms of loathing, as a man who betrayed not only us but his high office and the world organisation.

But the sheer gall of the man has survived his disgrace, and his influence remains. The Austrian Government has told the present Secretary-General that it expects Waldheim to be invited to the celebrations of the UN's anniversary, and will take great umbrage if he is not.

The problem is that if Waldheim is invited there will be furious protests from governments considerably more important than Austria's, and serious threats of a boycott. The American Government would have to consider its position carefully. Although the UN building is international territory, neither Kennedy nor Newark airport is. If the ban on Waldheim's entry were to be temporarily waived, the reactions of New Yorkers and of Congress are not hard to imagine: nor are the thundering leaders in *The New York Times* or the denunciations by Senator Patrick Moynihan.

Then there is the very real problem about Waldheim's personal security. There are a lot of people in America — particularly, but not exclusively, the relatives of those who perished in the mass deportation of Jews from Greece — who would welcome a brief meeting with him to settle accounts. He would have to be smuggled in as skillfully as Yasser Arafat was on his first visit to the UN. But then compared to Waldheim, Arafat was a welcome visitor to a significant number of governments.

On the other hand, if Waldheim is not invited, the anger of the Austrian Government would not be the real embarrassment. That would be the fact that of the two living former Secretaries-General only Pérez de Cuellar would be present. It would be as though ten years of the UN's first 50 had never happened. This, also, would arouse comment. But it is clearly preferable to the alternative.

The most sensible course would be for Austria, which joined the EC this week, to abandon its current adamant attitude and send its current President or a prominent Austrian who more faithfully reflects the country's commitment to the goals and ideals of the UN. However, in international politics, as in national, the sensible course is usually the one that is ignored, in the sacred name of pride. But what is there to be proud about?

Sir Robert Rhodes James was principal officer in the executive office of the UN Secretary-General, 1973-76.

One's tippale

THE GENIUS of Guinness has failed to impress the Royal Family. The brewer has lost the Royal Warrant it was awarded for supplies of creamy Irish stout to Her Majesty. For the first time since 1984, Guinness's name is not contained in the 1995 list of Royal Warrants of Appointment from Buckingham Palace.

The company was awarded the honour for supplying bottled stout to the Queen in the early 1980s. Beer supplies to the Palace have since ceased, however. "Guinness has dropped off the list. That's because they do not drink very much beer any more," says Commander Hugh Faulkner of the Royal Warrant Holders Association.

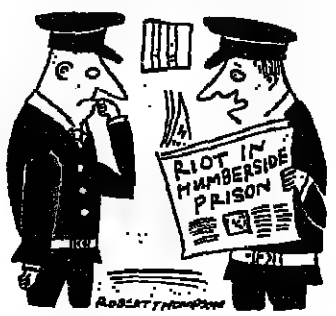
Guinness is disappointed, but points out that it has diversified from brewing into distilling since the original warrant for bottled stout was awarded. "We are sad that the warrant has not been renewed, because we would like to think of Guinness being consumed inside Buckingham Palace," said a spokesman. "But we do still have Royal Warrants on the spirits we supply: four brands of whisky and two brands of gin." The company declined to com-

ment on an ungentlemanly suggestion that the pressures of recent years have had a marked effect on the royal palate — and encouraged the switch from a life-giving stout to harder snuff.

Tight squeeze

FLYING back from the Canary Islands on Monday was the England rugby team, which had been training at Club La Santa in Lanzarote.

APPARENTLY THEY DID THOUSANDS OF POUNDS' WORTH OF DAMAGE TO DEREK LEWIS'S BONUS



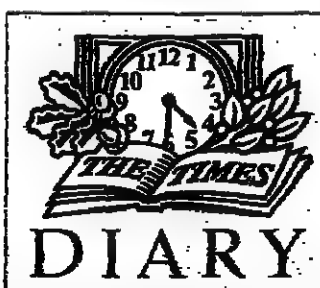
arote. It was a tight scrum when they boarded the plane.

On account of their bulk, the lads are accustomed to enjoying extra room. But holiday traffic precluded such luxury. Some of them sat three-abreast, knees wedged under chins. Will Carling paddled about the aisle in his socks. Others stood hunched at the front of the plane, while the 6ft 10in second row Martin Bayfield sat in cabin crew seats near the exit doors. Bayfield's discomfort was not confined to the plane, either. On arrival at icy Gatwick, his legs had gone numb the size of conkers: he was still in his training shorts.

Tea tunes

THE AMERICAN Ambassador to London, Admiral William Crowe, threw a lively tea party at his Regent's Park residence, Winfield House, on Monday. The event was his 70th birthday, and the honoured guests were a group of school fiddlers.

He was so impressed by the Jordan Junior Strings at a recent concert at the Purcell Room that he chauffeured them to his home for a private performance. Lady Anna Curzon, seven-year-old daughter of the Agriculture Minister Earl Howe, was among those who sawed away at American tunes



such as *I Wish I was in Dixie*. The Battle Hymn of the Republic and, of course, at *Happy Birthday*. "The Ambassador was clapping along to *Ragtime Annie* with tears in his eyes," says Elaine Jordan, who runs the group. "Afterwards he gave a splendid tea of burgers, fish fingers and chips."

Test card

THE ONLY member of the Gough household who has been oblivious to Darren's heroic performance in the third Test is his one-month-old son Liam, who has yet to meet his father. But Gough Jnr won't miss out — for his grandfather is making him an edited video of the match.

Darren's wife, Anna, says her father has been hard at it with the video-recorder. "Dad has been re-

cording the whole thing so that Liam can watch the highlights in years to come."

Gough Jnr shares a Christian name with Botham Jnr, but Anna pads away comparisons. "I'm sure Darren takes them as a compliment, but he wouldn't want to be compared to anyone really. He wants to be his own man."

Tranquillity returns to the Wiltshire village of West Lavington. The former Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke has finally sold his solid red-brick house for more than £250,000 and moved a few miles across Salisbury Plain to a nearby hamlet. The regular armed patrols around the Brooke residence will go with him.

Sloping off

A TELEVISION reporter grabbed the first-ever interview with Princess Beatrice and Eugenie this week. The two girls were monosyllabic, but they uttered their first words on television after a skiing session at Klosters.

Sue Saville, chief correspondent at GMTV, secured her scoop on the slopes not by stealth or subterfuge — but because she was bad at skiing. "The camera crew were at lunch. I chose the quietest little



Snow scoop, with Sue Saville

lane I could find to practise where there would be no one around," she says. "And suddenly the Duchess of York turned up with her ski instructor. They weren't impressed with my snowplough and told me to bend my knees." Ski-school banter followed, with Saville explaining that her skiing was rusty because of a back injury and the Duchess mentioning where she was taking the kids later in the day. Saville took the hint — and got her interview.

P.H.S



CASUALTY OF GROZNY

President Yeltsin must now take charge of his crisis

The war in Chechnya has reached that ominous stage when a massive and bloody counter-attack by the humiliated Russian Army now looks inevitable. The casualties, already far higher than admitted in disingenuous official Russian statements, will be horrific: the Chechens boast that they are ready to fight to the death, and the devastated centre of Grozny shows that they mean it.

The most spectacular casualty, however, has been the political life of the man who ordered the ragtag army into the snowy Caucasus: President Yeltsin. The Russian leader's popularity and credibility now stand at an all-time low. His democratic allies have deserted him. Deputies in the Duma, the Russian parliament, are openly contemptuous. The overwhelming bulk of the population, with bitter memories of the cruel war in the Afghan mountains, have no wish to send their young conscripts into another war against Muslim fighters. And senior generals, long resentful at the decline in the army's numbers and morale, cannot forgive their Commander-in-Chief's attempt to shirk responsibility by disappearing into hospital for an unspecified and possibly unnecessary nose operation.

Already there are renewed rumblings in Moscow of a coup. This time, however, they do not rally the reformers to the side of the embattled President. The only people on whom he can now count are the nationalists and mavericks such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who applaud the iron enforcement of Russia's will on its turbulent minorities. Even in the West, where Mr Yeltsin's survival was long seen as essential for the success of democratic and market reform, the tone has changed markedly. Earlier expressions of support have given way to blunt warnings that an all-out assault with heavy casualties would outrage and alienate Western public opinion. And, mindful of earlier mistakes in investing too much political capital in a threatened leader,

Western governments have begun looking at what policies to adopt should Mr Yeltsin fall.

In Moscow, there is a sense of *déjà-vu*. Mr Yeltsin has barely shown himself in public; his health is clearly failing and his official statements are contradictory, while pressure is put on the Russian media to toe the line: rumours abound that a cabal of cronies, headed by the shadowy figure of General Aleksandr Korzhakov, controls all access to the President. It is reminiscent of the final years of Brezhnev. The fear now, as then, is that a leader only partially in control is being manipulated by cliques around him, while they jockey for position and make tactical alliances with the old centres of power: the army, the security services and the powerful regional leadership.

The demand on Mr Yeltsin now must be to demonstrate leadership. Apart from a television broadcast, where he justified a military solution with tendentious evocation of the Chechens' record of banditry, he has failed either to assume public command of the crisis or to explain adequately how Russia will reimpose its political, as well as military, control over the breakaway republic. In a country that respects only strength and charisma, weakness and hesitancy are fatal; Mr Yeltsin has shown both. It is too late now for him to embark on another policy or to snatch a diplomatic victory from the street battles. He could do much now to stabilise Russia's disintegrating body politic: if he clarified earlier hints that he will not be standing in the 1996 presidential elections, if, as many advise him, he decides not to stand, he should nominate a credible political figure, such as Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the Duma, as his chosen successor around whom the army and political centre might coalesce. He may then be able to limp along until he steps down. At least this would give Russia time to recover balance after the bloody Chechen battle is over.

FRANC FORT FOLLY

August 1795: France introduced the franc as its new currency

They say money makes the world go round. Yet governments rarely succeed when they try to control the world by manipulating money. This is a lesson Europe has been learning painfully since 1992 as currencies have crashed one after another in the European exchange-rate mechanism. But Europe's political elite have still not drawn the obvious conclusion — that they should give up on trying to build a united Europe from the monetary roof downwards, and concentrate instead on building upwards from the sound foundations of free commerce and common economic goals.

Nowhere has the preoccupation with monetary union been more pervasive than in France, a once dynamic economy that has been transformed into Europe's biggest unemployment blackspot, largely because of the political elite's obsession with making the franc as "strong" as the German mark. The "franc fort" has been a French preoccupation for 200 years. On August 15, 1795, the Revolutionary Convention voted to abolish the royal livre, and issue a new silver franc as the nation's legal tender.

What followed was a typical sequence after new currencies are created in politically turbulent times — a rapid inflation, debasement of the coinage, workers' revolt and eventually the dictatorship of a charismatic general, Napoleon Bonaparte. But despite its inauspicious beginnings, the franc did well as an international currency for a long period after the Napoleonic Wars.

Alas for the advocates of European monetary union today, the franc's happy

experience as an international currency during the golden age of 19th-century capitalism was shattered by the First World War. In fact the monetary history of France from 1918 onwards became an object lesson against the folly of making a political totem out of a currency's international "strength". The French economy was devastated after 1918 and the franc became completely unsustainable at its prewar value. Once Britain and America abandoned the gold standard, France foolishly saw a chance to restore the franc to its former glory. It clung fanatically to gold, revaluing its currency almost twofold against the pound and dollar. The result was a catastrophic depression, which turned France into Europe's weakest economy, ruined much of its industry and was partly responsible for the country's inability to defend itself in 1939. After the war the French had still not learnt their lesson. From 1945 successive governments persisted in trying to defend an overvalued franc. They always failed, but at great cost to French industry and commerce.

Why is it that even after this long history of monetary mismanagement, the French continue to attribute a mystical importance to the external value of the franc? The French currency will doubtless come under further attack during this year's presidential campaign and the markets will win in the end, as they have throughout history, most recently in the ERM crisis of 1993. But the chances of French politicians learning anything from their coming new defeat in the market must be small.

LEGION OF HONOUR

The veterans' charity is right to update its image

The Royal British Legion has timed its re-launch today with admirable foresight. Many events this year will mark the Second World War, and the debt which the nation owes its war veterans will be widely recalled. Seventy-four years after its foundation, the charity is wisely pre-empting argument that it will soon become obsolete.

Demands upon its welfare services have never been greater. A number of men who fought in the First World War are still alive and need the legion's help. Many veterans of the Second World War have only recently retired and are making fresh demands on the charity's resources. Every Briton who performed National Service is eligible for help: so too are the 25,000 servicemen leaving the Army each year. The legion represents soldiers freshly returned from Bosnia, as well as those who remember the Somme.

Taking account of dependants of ex-servicemen, the charity calculates that it has a potential obligation to 18 million people. It cannot afford, therefore, to be seen as an old-fashioned institution of decreasing relevance. Nor can the legion continue to dig into its reserves to meet its costs. Last year, the public was asked to give a little more generously than usual to the annual poppy appeal. Although the total amount raised will not be known until May, the response appears to have been very encouraging. Ordinary people still hold the work of the legion in high esteem. This is the foundation upon which the charity must build.

First, it should emphasise its role as a servant to veterans of all ages. The legion's work for pensioners is widely appreciated. Less well known are its efforts on behalf of younger people who have left the Services. The charity's new training centre, for instance, will help 4,000 ex-servicemen a year to find civilian work. Its counselling services are as valuable to veterans of the Gulf War as they are to the men who fought in Normandy half a century ago. Secondly, the legion should devote itself to persuasion. The veterans' organisations showed how much they have already learnt about public relations last year when they campaigned against a proposed jamboree in Hyde Park to mark the anniversary of D-Day. But the legion should also address itself to cultivating memory. Exhibitions, lectures and school visits all have a part to play.

Because today's Services are wholly professional, the civilian and military worlds are not as intertwined as they have been in the past. A far greater imaginative leap is required of those who have not seen combat to imagine the sufferings of those who have. Yet the success of the Barbican's exhibition of First World War art last year showed how many people of all ages do indeed wish to make this leap. The Legion is, among other things, an unparalleled human archive: an association of people who have fought for their country and lived to tell the tale. The charity should seize every opportunity to help them to share their story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Powers and accountability of SFO in Guinness trials

From Mr Joshua Rowe

Sir, If the allegations of gross miscarriage of justice in the Guinness cases are proven (reports, December 23, 24), I hope that the individuals within the Serious Fraud Office who were responsible for these trials will be made to repay both the innocent defendants and the taxpayer for the enormous damage they have caused.

What is more notable though, and what has been most striking throughout the whole affair, is the role of the Guinness board. When the story came to light, they as a collective entity indignantly distanced themselves from Ernest Saunders. Yet if he was guilty, and if the board were convicted of his wrongdoing, how is it that Guinness as a company was entitled to keep the price of that wrongdoing?

If Distillers was obtained through wrongful action, Guinness should not have been allowed to retain Distillers for one moment. It is like condemning a thief and at the same time benefiting from all his stolen goods. Whether Saunders is found guilty or innocent, I suggest that the board's action throughout these years shows a high degree of hypocrisy.

Yours faithfully,
JOSHUA ROWE,
84 Upper Park Road,
Salford, Greater Manchester,
January 2.

From Mr C. P. Vellenoweth

Sir, Whatever the outcome of the reference back to the Court of Appeal of

the Guinness case, the apparent evidence of a certificate of public interest immunity issued and relating to information held by the Department of Trade and Industry is a deeply worrying aspect of this matter. It has echoes of the Matrix Churchill debacle and, in the context of a Government which outwardly professes the values of openness, probity and accountability, is especially disturbing.

Tribunals by the derivation of their very name are "of the people" and, whilst evidence presented may not be in the public domain, their findings manifestly should be so. Coupled with the arrogance of the Serious Fraud Office in its decision to be the arbiter of what is relevant evidence rather than allowing judge and jury to decide, the scales of justice begin to look out of balance.

Certainty about even-handedness of Government and the due processes of law must be re-established. As a first step, there should be an early hearing by the Appeal Court.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. VELLELOWETH,
2 Holmwood Drive,
Barnston, Wirral, Merseyside,
December 24.

From Mr J. V. Bates

Sir, If, as your leading article of December 24 suggests and the Court of Appeal may find, the SFO has wrongly withheld material information from the defence, the fault is not one of personal malice or error, but one of

demic in the system by which the SFO was organised.

In 1986, following the report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure (the Phillips commission), the Crown Prosecution Service was set up expressly to ensure that the persons involved in the investigation of criminal offences were not also involved in prosecuting them. Whatever the criticisms of the CPS, that principle surely remains inviolate.

At almost the same time Government was setting up the SFO with powers and duties that, also expressly, involved the police, the accountants and the lawyers working together in the investigation and the prosecution of offences. However these parties may survive by the erection of "Chinese walls" to separate their functions, the complexity and size of the investigations make such divisions within the same office unrealistic.

Once the prosecutors get too close to the investigation the unwitting bias identified by the Phillips commission follows, and the absence of a fresh, unprejudiced mind to discharge the prosecutor's quasi-judicial duties becomes a serious defect.

Whether the SFO retains its independent status or not, steps must be taken to separate its functions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BATES,
(Chief Crown Prosecutor
for Lancashire, 1986-93),
Dormers, Ludham, Norfolk,
December 25.

Comparative merits of road and rail freight transport

From Mr Trevor Garrad

Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman claims ("Rail lobby's dead end", December 20) that rail transport is far more energy-intensive than road and creates "roughly ten times" as much pollution. He quotes no source for this statement.

Our own studies indicate that a 2,000hp railway locomotive can haul about 1,000 tonnes of freight, suggesting 2hp per tonne load. A large lorry can carry, say, 30 tonnes of payload requiring an engine of some 420hp; or 14hp per tonne load. This ratio of 7:1 in favour of rail is rather different to Sir Alfred's 10:1.

What is Sir Alfred's basis for his claim?

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR GARRAD,
(General Secretary,
Railway Development Society),
16 Clapham Road,
Lewes, Sussex,
December 24.

From Councillor David Campbell Bannerman

Sir, The analysis contained in Sir Alfred Sherman's article is deeply flawed on at least two points.

His "5 per cent of journeys carried by rail" statistic must surely be derived by comparing rail journeys on the rail network with all road journeys on a road network some 21 times its size. It must also include overwhelmingly local trips, such as visits

to the local shops (three quarters of journeys of all kinds are under five miles); these are hardly conducive either to train or motorway travel. Most local journeys may be made by road; but many more longer-distance passenger and freight journeys could be switched to rail.

Secondly, Sir Alfred complains about rail subsidy yet conveniently ignores road subsidy. Whilst rail subsidy is calculated annually, road subsidy — an amalgam of health (accident cost £7 billion pa), social, environmental, policing and local authority costs, and tax breaks — is hidden in a variety of other budgets. If the road infrastructure had to make the same 8 per cent rate of return to be demanded from the rail infrastructure (Railtrack), the motorist would have to find another £20 billion a year (around £827 per vehicle) — alone worth more than all road taxes.

We should no longer allow the transport debate to be blurred by such smokecreens.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. BANNERMAN,
(Chairman, Transport Committee),
The Bow Group,
92 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2,
December 21.

From Mr Robert H. Foster

Sir, Exactly the same discussion about cutting rail services and closing lines as is going on now (report, December 14), occurred after the last major rail strikes in 1982. The poor management

and inefficiency of railways in this country (and in many others) since the war — in the face of stiff competition from other modes — are what lie at the root of the railways' ills.

You refer to the recent joint report by the editor of *Railway Gazette International*, Richard Hope. In a letter to *The Times* (November 17, 1975) following the withdrawal of the Liverpool-Hull Freightliner train which required four crews of three men each to move it 130 miles and back, he wrote that so long as it takes 12 men to perform a return journey which would be well within the daily capability of a single lorry driver, the natural advantage of rail transport would always be undermined.

Things have not changed much. You reported recently, in regard to the attempt to sell the heavily loss-making Freightliner business (Business article, November 11), that it took five drivers to operate a Freightliner train from Southampton to Leeds. A lorry driver would do the journey (255 miles by rail, 225 by road) comfortably in six hours.

What the railways of Britain require are a few equivalents of Richard Hope and Lord King and a Government dedicated to making rail transport efficient, cost-effective and attractive to the freight user and passenger.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT H. FOSTER,
Winterburn Grange,
Nr Skipton, North Yorkshire,
December 15.

Uneven honours

From Major-General Ken Perkins

Sir, In response to criticism of the honours system the Prime Minister said it would be revised. The revision does not match the ballyhoo (details, December 31). Unless there is a more rational and equitable distribution the honours system will begin to lose credibility as a vehicle for rewarding merit.

Without the pipe dream of a classless society, it is inevitable, excluding decorations for bravery, that levels of awards continue to be determined more by status than merit; any honours system would collapse were it otherwise. But how is it, for example, that the founder and driving force of the Samaritans is deemed worthy of only something less than the knighthood he surely merits?

Such anomalies are by no means exceptional. Automatic honours continue for those who have served their time — usually well paid — in particular positions. Nominations by the public have not removed the bias in favour of the upper echelons, a bias which has become less obvious following the removal of distinctions at the bottom end of the scale between honours awarded to "officers" and "other ranks".

Analysis of civilian awards requires more information than is readily available, but it is clear that the allocation is not much more equitable than in the military, where the balance between officers and other ranks is easily determined by virtue of the ranks attached to the recipients. Measured against this New Year's Honours Lists, officers are nine times more likely to be decorated than other ranks.

Honours should be reserved for activities well beyond what is normally expected and, by that criterion, other ranks qualify just as frequently as officers. Similar factors apply in the case of civilians.

Yours faithfully,
KEN PERKINS,
4 Bedwyn Common,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
January 1.

London films

From Mr Dominic Wright

Sir, As a film producer living and working in and around London, words cannot express how pleased I am to see *The Times* praising the creation of a London film commission (report and leading article, December 29). For too many years we have struggled to bring foreign film, television and commercial productions to London, only to suffer the embarrassing delays and setbacks caused by a confusing and often apparently reluctant bureaucracy. At last there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I was deeply encouraged by the stress laid on the film and television industry as a rich source of foreign investment and export revenue.

You report that in the United States "the film and television industry is the country's second largest export earner" (after aviation) and that "One Hollywood movie shot in London can bring £25 million of inward investment".

Are the British business community and the Government finally waking up to the fact that film and television is not some esoteric cottage industry but an integral part of the global revolution in communications technology that will be a vital component of economic success or failure in the next century?

Height of rudeness

From the Reverend Peter Gledhill

Sir, John Crofts, writing about Rod Richards's article in the magazine *Burn* (letter, December 29), comments that there is no English word meaning tall which can be used, like the word "small", to convey an insult. Mr Richards's article was written not in English but in Welsh. The Welsh word *heglog* (lanky, long-legged) can be used as an insult. Sometimes Welsh can be more expressive than English.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GLEDHILL,
Yr Hen Felin,
Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Gwynedd,
December 29.

The creation of a London film commission is a step in the right direction, but only a first step. Long-term benefits for Britain from its own film industry can only come from proper capitalisation, allowing us to compete effectively in the international marketplace.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC WRIGHT,
Fantastic Films Limited,
Shepperton Studios, Studios Road,
Shepperton, Middlesex,
December 29.

From Mr Steve Parry

Sir, I welcome your leader calling for a London film commission. I also hope that 1995 will see the single most important development to enable inward investments on a London-wide basis: the return of a democratically elected strategic authority.

For prospective film-makers to be expected to deal with up to 33 different town halls is absurd: yet this is only one example of how the absence of a strategic authority places London at a disadvantage to every other major city in Europe.

Yours sincerely,
STEVE PARRY,
Action for London,
30 Whitehead Close,
Epsom, Surrey,
December 30.

Footling West bill

From His Honour Judge Paul Collins

Sir, I note with interest the Gloucestershire police's problem meeting the bill for Frederick West without government help (report, January 2). Why doesn't the historic city host a party conference?

Section 170, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, provides for payment from central funds for qualifying security measures for such occasions. With some creative accounting there might be something left over for catching criminals.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL COLLINS,
Wandsworth County Court,
76-8 Upper Richmond Road, SW15,
January 3.

No jobs on offer to trainee solicitors

From Mr Peter Carter-Ruck

Sir, Frances Gibb ("Innovative ways to promote equality", Law, December 20) rightly draws attention to what the Law Society describes as a "frightening situation", namely, that 10,000 students, including 4,000 qualified trainee solicitors, remain without a place in a law firm.

One does not have to look far for reasons.

In the past two decades, one has seen a gradual erosion, mainly through legislation, of the right and availability of solicitors to undertake the important work which used to be exclusively within the province of family solicitors up and down the country. What has happened?

First, the conduct and advice which was once the preserve of those best qualified to conduct the purchases and sales of private property — to many, the most important financial transaction in their lives — has effectively been taken away from solicitors and made available to "licensed conveyancers".

Secondly, the building of new affordable housing has fallen from 86,000 units in 1990 to only 24,000 in 1992, which would have provided much-needed accommodation, and work for solicitors.

Thirdly, eligibility for legal aid has been so emasculated as to take at least 12 million of those previously entitled to seek legal assistance out of the scheme.

Lastly, the Child Support Agency has taken from solicitors work which they are particularly qualified to undertake.

Yours faithfully,
PETER F. CARTER-RUCK,
75 Shore Lane, ECA4.

Labour's image

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, I disagree with William Rees-Mogg ("Too many promises", December 22) that Labour's decision to concentrate upon constitutional reform will harm the party and "give Labour a cranking image".

On the contrary, this new interest in overhauling our "cranky" constitution is to the party's credit. For too long, ever since the death of Hugh Gaitskill, Labour has been propounding the wrong agenda. Many of us took the view that if Labour had advocated this democracy agenda rather sooner — instead of the failed "socialist transformation of society" — it would not have allowed itself to be marginalised these last 15 years.

Embracing the democracy agenda has certain very real advantages for Labour. It is cost-free (indeed, in some cases, such as reforming the Lords and the monarchy, will save us public money) and thus deflects the traditional Tory charge of Labour profligacy. Crucially, it chimes in with the growing public mood of disillusion, not just with the Government, but with the very system of government itself.

The reason why Labour (and the Liberal Democrats) have so many proposals for constitutional reform may simply be that there is such a large "democratic deficit" in our politics.

Come on, m'Lord, we can do better.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HASELER,
2 Thackeray House,
Ansfield Street, Kensington, W8,
December 27.

Lottery matters

From Mr David Deane

Sir, Mr Marc Levine (letter, December 31), is obviously unaware that the legal profession, if not Carleton, already accepts the existence of a third gender.

In my recently completed new lease the wording is quite specific: "In this lease, words importing one gender include both other genders."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DEANE,
Tingle Creek, Beresford Road,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
December 31.

Store of good will

From Mr Peter A. Fitzwater

Sir, The bad news, Mrs Judith White (letter, December 29), is that "Brownie points" are only redeemable immediately after death. But, that's also the good news!

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. FITZWATER,
6 Summinghill Court, Ascot, Berkshire.

From Mr Desmond G. Harris

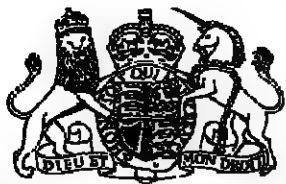
Sir, If Mrs White were a man I could give her a simple way to use up a 50-year stock of Brownie points — just once come home half-an-hour late for dinner.

Yours pointlessly,
DESMOND G. HARRIS,
Tudor Lodge, 9 Brecon Road,
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, Avon.

From Dr Simon Dover

Sir, I suggest that Mrs White redeems her "Brownie points" at the bank which issues rain cheques.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON DOVER,
17 Blackwood Avenue,
Woolton, Liverpool 25.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

NORFOLK
The Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Kent were represented by the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne at the Memorial Service for the Lord Elphinstone which was held in St Mary's Church, Worplesdon, this afternoon.

CLARENCE HOUSE

January 3: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by the Hon Mrs Rhodes at the Memorial Service for the Lord Elphinstone which was held in St Mary's Church, Worplesdon, this afternoon.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh 1625-56, chronicler, Dublin, 1591; Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Italy, 1710; Jacob Grimm, philologist and folk-tale collector, Hanau, Germany, 1785; Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, Coupvray, France, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1813; Augustus John, painter, Tenby, Dyfed, 1878.

DEATHS: Stephen Hales, clergyman, pioneer of plant physiology, Teddington, west London, 1761; Joseph John Gurney, philanthropist and writer, 1847; Cornelius Vanderbilt, financier, New York, 1877; Charles Keene, artist, Hammersmith, 1891; Benito Goidos, novelist and dramatist, Madrid, 1930; Henri Bergson, philosopher, Nobel laureate 1927, Paris, 1941; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1872; Albert Camus, novelist, Nobel laureate 1957, Seno, France, 1960; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Vienna, 1961; T.S. Eliot, poet, Nobel laureate 1948, London, 1965; Donald Campbell, killed when his speedboat crashed on Coniston Water, Cumbria, 1967; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, Shaba Game Reserve, Kenya, 1980; Christopher Isherwood, novelist, California, 1984.

The Fabian Society was founded, 1884.

The first successful appendix operation was performed in Iowa by Dr Williams West Grant, 1885.

Chinese communists captured Seoul during the Korean War, 1951.

Rose Heilbrunn became the first woman to sit as a judge at the Old Bailey, 1972.

Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners

The following have been elected honorary officers of the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners (STEP) at the recent AGM: Geoffrey A. Shindler, Chairman; Timothy J. Bennett, Treasurer; Ralph P. Ray, Deputy Chairman; Richard J. Ciron, Treasurer; Jonathan P. Cooke, Secretary.

Deputy lieutenants

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for the County of Lincoln: Brigadier R.A. Plummer, Mr P.H. Gibbons, Mr A.J.L. Worth, Air Vice Marshal T.P. White, Mrs C.S. Fenwick, Mr J.S. Good, Mr A.C. Jarvis and Mr R.P.C. Crockett-Eley.

Birthdays today

Professor Victoria Bruce, psychologist, 42; Miss Grace Bumbury, singer, 58; Mr Alexander Chancellor, journalist, 55; Miss Rosalind Crutchley, actress, 73; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 65; Mr Alan Dyer, Chief Constable, Bedfordshire, 61; Mr Guy Forget, tennis player, 30; Mr Abe Hamilton, fashion designer, 33; Professor K.J. Hancock, economist, 60; Sir Havelock Hudson, former chairman, Lloyd's, 76; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, 62; Professor B. Payne, director, The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, 50; the Earl of Ranfurly, 66; Mr T.J. Rex, publisher, 61; the Rev Edward Rogers, former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, 86; Sir Alan Thomas, civil servant, 52; Sir Colin Turner, former MP, 73; Mrs Audrey Wise, MP, 60.

Deaths

FOX - Eric Joseph, on 31st December. Survived by wife, daughter, son, and grandsons. Buried at St. Mary's Church, London, on 3rd January.

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Youngsters learn skills as they restore their own homes

Run-down buildings are turned into flats

By PAUL WILKINSON

LEEDS Action To Create Homes (LATCH) is a project as much about motivating young homeless people as putting a roof over their heads.

LATCH enables youngsters to renovate property so that they can live there while at the same time training them in the skills needed to achieve that. "We are empowering young people, allowing them to take control of their lives," says Bryn Higgs, one of the organisers of the scheme, said. "With self-help it shows young unemployed that there is a way forward and at the same time shows them the skills they might want to pick up. We are not a job-training scheme, but many of our people have gone on to full-time courses as a result of what they have learnt with us."

Paul Towler, one of the young people assisted by LATCH, said: "Apart from work-experience in brick work, joinery and electrics it has provided me with a home of my own. I was homeless and getting to the stage where I did not know where or who to turn to. LATCH has given me confidence. Working in a group and having people listen to my opinions is a great feeling to have and one that I had lost."

Based in the run-down inner city suburb of Chapel-town, the group buys derelict properties from Leeds council, mainly 19th-century terrace houses, and converts them into flats. Mr Higgs, 30, and Tom Ruxton, LATCH's co-founder, picked the site six years ago as its size makes it a focus for many unemployed homeless young people from all over the North.

Those who have worked on the restoration work then move in as tenants of LATCH's housing co-operative, paying a rent approximating to the current level of housing benefit.

LATCH's latest achievement is to convert a large house, bought from Leeds council for £5,000, into two two-bedroomed and one one-bedroomed flats. They are funded by grants from the Environment Department



Terry Ibegudier at work renovating a house that may become his home



Emma Gouzen gets on with some cement-mixing

and charities including the Church of England Urban Fund, the Prince's Trust and the J. Paul Getty Foundation. Much of the work has been done with donations from building industry suppliers, ranging from tools and materials to furniture and even vacuum cleaners.

Future plans for LATCH include its own accredited training scheme and setting up a building firm employing former self-builders to

contract for future work. Leeds Action To Create Homes has won one of the two Charwell Land/HACT Awards for Housing and Homelessness in the 1994 Community Enterprise Awards sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross and organised by Business in the Community. The Prince of Wales will present the awards in Manchester on February 8.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr Q.M.C. Anderson and Miss C.S. Macnamara
The engagement is announced between Quentin Michael Cordue, eldest son of Mr Michael Anderson, of Middlemarsh, Dorset, and Mrs David Part, of Pavilion Road, London, and Clare Susannah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Macnamara, of St Mary Bourne, Hampshire.

Mr D.E. Ball and Miss M.L. Lacamp
The engagement is announced between David Stewart, son of Mr and Mrs C. Frederick Ball, of Chichester, and Miss M.L. Lacamp, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.F. Lacamp, of Norton, Kent.

Mr N.K. Cook and Miss H.L. Williams
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr William Cook, of Walsingham, Suffolk, and Miss H.L. Williams, daughter of Colonel Richard Williams, of Benbecula, Scotland, and Mrs David Norworthy, daughter of Mr David Norworthy, of Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire.

Mr T.M. Cunningham and Miss J.J. Long
The engagement is announced between Miss, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cunningham, of Exeter, Devon, and Jacqueline, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Carl Long, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr R.O. Davies and Miss C.A. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Dr and Mrs R.H. Davies, of The Hague, and Camilla, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs K.F.D. Wilson, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Mr D.S. Edgerley and Miss L.M. Sibson
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs V. Edgerley, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Loughborough, and Lucia, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Sibson, of Hampstead, London.

Mr N.K. Foster Taylor and Miss G.F. Gwynne
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Keisham, elder son of Mr and Mrs Tony Foster Taylor, of Brownston, Devonshire, and Gillian Frances, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gwynne, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.N.C. Goffard and Miss B.H.K.M. Fetsch
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mrs Susan M. Goffard and the late Mr John P.C. Goffard, of Romy, Lancashire, and Bettina, daughter of Herr Cornelius-Georg Fetsch and Frau Barbara Fetsch, of Angermund, Düsseldorf.

Mr J.H. Gould and Miss K.M. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Jamie, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.S. Gould, of Epsom, Surrey, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Hughes, of Woodford, Great Essex.

Mr P.H. Kerby and Miss M.J. Holland
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Dr and Mrs Ian Kerby, of Llanfair, Cardiff, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Holland, of Emdon, Suffolk, Essex.

Mr S.J. Price and Miss A.J. Edgar
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Price, of Tiverton, Devon, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Edgar, of Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr C.J. Heddie and Miss F.J. Thorpe
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Ron Heddie, of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, and Fenella, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Thorpe, of Peaslake, Surrey.

Mr A.A. Maurice and Miss Z.G. Efremova
The engagement is announced between Adrian Armstrong, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Armstrong, of Tunbridge Wells, and Zola Gennadyevna, only daughter of Mr Gennady Alconandovich and Mrs Tamara Georgiyevna Efremova, of Samara, Russia.

Mr N.B. Morgan and Miss H.J. Marcantonatos
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Bernard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Morgan, of Craig Penline, South Glamorgan, and Helena Joanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Tassos Marcantonatos, of Lickton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr M.A.E. Parvis and Miss L.R. Smith
The engagement is announced between Mark Anthony Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Parvis, of East Malling, Kent, and Lucy Rebecca, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Howard Smith, of Chaddesley Corbett and Hong Kong.

Mr R.D. Rawlins and Miss J.S. O'Reilly
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R.D. Rawlins, of Berrisford, Devon, and Janine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. O'Reilly, of Southill, Dorset.

Mr A.D.B. Rimmer and Dr C.J. Temple
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs David Rimmer, of Ormskirk, Lancashire, and Caroline, only daughter of Professor and Mrs John Temple, of Edgborough, Birmingham.

Mr J.H. Trueman and Miss M.E. Anderson
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of the late Dr Hugh Trueman and of Dr Jennifer Trueman, of Victoria Park Road, Exeter, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard B. Anderson, of Hermitage Gardens, Edinburgh.

Mr D.R. Walker and Miss S. Underwood
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mr and Mrs D.C. Walker, of Apperley, Painsfield, Hampshire, and Suzy, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.L. Underwood, of London.

Mr S.P. Webster and Miss J.A. Trotter
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs John K. Webster, of Southampton, and Jenny, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian M. Trotter, of Eyford Green, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr M. Prosser and Miss P.A. Lyall
The marriage took place on December 28, 1994, in Stratford-upon-Avon, of Mr Martin Prosser, of Cape Town, and Miss Penelope Anne Lyall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Lyall, of Brilles, Warwickshire, formerly of Sutton Coldfield.

Church news

Church in Wales
The Rev John Gareth Griffiths, Vicar of Llanasa, to the Vicar of Rhuddlan (St Asaph).

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

BIRTHS

MARSHALL - On Tuesday 31st January 1995, to Tom and Alison, a daughter, Georgia.

MILLER - Arrived one day before Christmas 1994, to a son, Oliver James.

MILNE - On 29th December 1994, to a son, Oliver James.

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MILNE</

SIR HENRY PHELPS BROWN

He also found time to represent his university in cross-country running (1926) and to participate in debates at the Oxford Union Society, becoming its secretary in 1928.

His historical training again came to the fore from the later 1940s when he started looking into changes in wage rates in five European countries between 1860 and 1939. This work developed into what was later to be called his study of "Wages through the Ages", stretching back to southern

Phelps Brown was a tall, upright man who retained something of a military bearing — quietly dignified, conscientious and well-ordered at all times. He married Evelyn — John Bowlby's sister — in 1932, and she survives him, together with his two sons and a daughter.

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man. He is wearing a fedora hat and a light-colored scarf. The image is heavily stylized with high contrast, making the features appear somewhat abstract and graphic. The man is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

He is survived by his wife and their daughter.

Roderick Aeneas Chisholm was educated at Ampleforth and the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he read chemistry. In 1932 he joined the Anglo-

The advent of the faster and much more powerfully-armed Beaufighter altered the picture and Chisholm scored his first kills in March 1941 when he shot down two He 111s in a

He was not back on operations again until 1944 when he was posted to the staff of 100 Group, which had been set up to find ways of minimising Bomber Command's fearful losses at the hands of the German night-fighters. Though on the staff, Chisholm was able to get airborne again

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of an elderly man with a beard and glasses, resting his chin on his hand. The image is grainy and has a stark, almost graphic quality. The man is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt and a dark tie. His right hand is propped up, with his fingers resting under his chin. The background is dark and indistinct.

Federspiel received many Danish honours. His retirement as honorary legal adviser in 1977 was marked also by the award of an honorary KBE. He is survived by his wife Elin Zahle, whom he married in 1934, and their four children.

[illegible]

ON THIS DAY

January 4 1946



more familiar to the public. He they were in general use during the war and later opened to the public. The Cabinet War Rooms, containing 21 rooms, just off Whitehall.

in the ground." In this subterranean headquarters were three miles of corridors and nearly a thousand rooms. The fortress was bomb-proof and poison gas-proof, and had its own power plant, water supply, and radio station. It had been fully used if a last stand had become necessary, and it was carried on for three weeks. In contact with the outside world, London been besieged. So strong

was this underground fortress that experts believed that if an atom bomb had been dropped on it, the steel and concrete crust, nearly 12ft. thick, would have been sufficient protection. The heart of the fortress was a miniature power station with four Petter diesel-electric generating sets developing in all 1,500 hp. Sunk 60ft. below street level, and with fuel supply for nearly a month, the fortress was provided with light and power and with an air-conditioning plant which could be operated by pressing a button and would give protection against any known poison gas. Happily, the building was never put to full-scale emergency use. The power for its services has, in general, been obtained from the local electricity supply undertaking. On occasions of grid failure the services have been maintained with complete success by the diesel-engined plant intended to cope with war emergencies. The fact that excavations had taken place on the site for a new gas-holder assisted the speedy preparation of the citadel.

COURTYARD
TOWN IN THE
FRYSIDE
the lovely Minister
2 bedrooms flat.
conservatory.
fencing garage.
rent.
is available.
IT IS BEST IN
ACROSS RURAL

Why can't the BBC stop fighting ITV and give us back its risk-taking classic brand image of sophistication, intelligence and quality?

The way forward is to reverse

It is always nice to feel not alone. Over the holiday weekend I learnt first, that I am not the only woman driver to have discerned an increasing aggression among male motorists. The rash of mouthed obscenities from contorted male faces, it seems, is a recognised new phenomenon known as "road rage". The second comfort was to read how many others also found Christmas television a turn-off.

The tedium was not such a surprise from ITV, for the main commercial channel has been accustomed to go slack at Christmas in the knowledge that its advertisers consider consumers to be hibernating. But we have expected better from the BBC. BBC itself seemed to acknowledge this when it scheduled a replay of the *Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show* of 1971 to follow the cringe-making *Victoria Wood: Live In Your Own Home* as if to say: "Here's one we made earlier, when we still had the knack."

So what is the lost art? Andrew Davies had no difficulty defining it in the *Royal Television Society's*

Huw Weldon lecture televised this week: the concentration of commissioning drama and comedy in too few hands. Six, in fact, according to his reckoning: the controllers of BBC1 and 2, and the head of drama at ITV Network Centre.

He accused Alan Yentob of BBC1, Michael Jackson of BBC2 and Vernon Llewellyn of ITV of re-using tired formulae, searching for longer series and trying to "narcotise the viewing population" with shows based on worn-out formulae. "There is intelligent life out there," he promised. He dismissed ITV Network Centre as a "dreadful, embarrassing failure" — a failure obvious, he said, to everybody but the nobs at the BBC who are desperate to emulate ITV.

His suggested solution was to return the decision-making on which programmes to commission to those lower down the production chain — not the buyers of

programmes but their creators: producers and writers who trust their own feelings and perceptions and want to try things that haven't been done before.

Mr Davies can well dare to speak his mind. One of Britain's leading screenwriters and adapters (A Very Peculiar Practice, *House of Cards*, *The Old Devils*, *Middlemarch* among others), he's damned near indispensable.

Another television writer, veteran supplier to both sides of the system and who'd better be nameless, scathingly confirms the Davies diagnosis. ITV Network Centre, according to him, practises "concept-testing": testing story ideas as if they were soap products.

You send researchers out to ask people, "Would you be interested in seeing a story about King Arthur and his Round Table? Or just King Arthur alone?" (This would fall at the start, he says, because people



BRENDA MADDOX

have never heard of King Arthur.) He sees the BBC as just as bad, although he thinks that Mr Davies was unfair to blame Mr Yentob, whom he himself sees as "the human, or Jewish, face of Birtism". "They're running around like chickens," he says: "worried about fighting ITV."

There's no one capable of doing anything. There's no democracy. Everyone is an underling.

"In the old days, if a producer was on your side, he or she had the power to commission a programme and it would be made. Now everything has to be referred upward to someone else. And you, the writer, wait, and you wait."

The BBC might be well advised to show the same hesitancy in its international adventures. But the opposite is true. There, the BBC rushes expensive new services into markets where there is little sign of consumer demand or eventual revenue. Soon, BBC Worldwide will introduce two new satellite channels into Europe, and not long afterwards a variant of one of these, an international news channel, will also appear in America.

There is even talk of introducing some form of this international satellite news channel back into

Britain, either for cable and satellite reception only, or perhaps also on BBC1 in the middle of the night.

Can this be true? Such a channel would be available to only a minority of British viewers. Its financing would require special scrutiny. Would its cost be covered by the subscriptions paid by cable and satellite users, abroad as well as at home? Or would some part of it be financed by the British licence-fee payer? This risky venture of introducing the BBC Worldwide product domestically could expose the supposed barrier between international and domestic operations for what many of us think it is: a Chinese wall with a revolving door.

What a topsy-turvy world. The BBC has lost its nerve at home, where it has two channels with access to 22 million homes, and guaranteed funding, and found it abroad, where there is no proven

market. Could this be because what it is selling abroad is its old classic brand: sophistication, intelligence, quality?

The way forward is to reverse. The domestic BBC should return to its now despised role of "super-serving the ABCs in southern England".

That condescending phrase suggests that because work embodying quality, sharpness, wit, intelligence, flair, new ideas of unproven popularity and short shelf-life tends to originate from London — such is the nature of capital cities in small countries the interest in them is equally geographically concentrated.

That is untrue. Mr Davies is right. There is intelligent life out there: a nationwide audience for radio and television, which does not expect costume dramas on Himalayan peaks, yet expects the BBC to be risk-taking, the national leader not in "accessibility" but in presenting modern English well used. That is the BBC's classic brand image at home, and it is not produced by committees and "referral upwards".



Quizmaster David Coleman flanked by team captains Ian Botham, who is stumped by cricket questions, and Bill Beaumont, who smashes them round the studio

25 not out, quite remarkable!

On Tuesday, *A Question of Sport* has its 400th programme. What happened next? Oh! Er... Eh? Ah! The blokes with the funny woolies came back and did exactly the same thing all over again.

Well done, Ian, that's absolutely right.

Yes! Now Bill, over to you. This year *A Question of Sport* moves into the 25th year of its existence. What happened next? Er... Does it go on for another 25 years with an absolutely unchanged format?

Why not, Bill? Absolutely right. Quite remarkable. Why does a show that's making money? I'll accept that answer and that keeps Bill's team level with Ian's as we go into the final picture round.

It seems that there is nothing to stop this television programme going on until the last trump. The only change has been in the personnel of the captains and the quizmaster, and in the ever-increasing importance of sport in the daily life of the nation.

Try offering a publisher a book on sport in general. Watch him panic. Oh no. It won't sell, it has to go on the right shelf, you know, cricket, or football. People aren't interested in sport *qua* sport, they are interested in their own sport.

Except that nine million people watch *A Question of Sport* every week. Other celebrity quiz shows come and go like the poor, *A Question of Sport* is always with us. Still in with a chance, Dave.

Why? The programme can match banality with banality against *Blankety-Blank* or any such vehicle for celebs. But *Blankety-Blank* is long gone; the battle of the woolies never ends.

David Coleman, quizmaster since 1979, suggests: "People love to see people enjoying themselves. It's as simple as that. As for sporting enthusiasts, this is the only place on

A Question of Sport attracts nine million viewers a week.

Simon Barnes on the appeal of athletes with their clothes on

television where they can get a glimpse of their hero's real personality away from the increasing pressures of the arena."

Good answer, Dave, but not quite right. I can only give you a point for that, and I must also deduct half a point for the unfortunately woolly. You have omitted the point that on *A Question of Sport* you can see what athletes look like with their clothes on. This is not a frivolous observation.

Mary is the time I have failed to spot an athlete, whose every nuance of appearance in competition is familiar, when we have made an appointment to meet for an interview.



First team: Cliff Morgan, David Vine, Henry Cooper

view. Hair brushed, long trousers, and *A Question of Sport* woolly: this seems to bear no relation whatsoever to the figure storming in his pomps along the wing.

hurdlers the straight in her glory.

On *A Question of Sport* we see them, heroes or no, unsweaty, unmud-bespattered, faces unmarked by supreme effort. Suddenly the painting sportmen are suave, the straining spores of an agonising Lucinda Green, at the height of her fame as a three-day eventer, was recognised in public only by the irredeemably horsey. But as a regular guest on *A Question of Sport* — she

is still the record-holder, missing only two years since 1974 — she is recognised in Marks and Spencer. The pleasure of seeing athletes with their clothes on is one of the

programme's secrets, but there is another, and I think crucial aspect to the programme's success.

Watch celeb "competitors" on other quiz shows, and ask yourself what they are trying to do. The answer is simple: get onto the screen and pout. Maximise the exposure. Make a mark. The priority is the joke, the smile, the funny voice. The question is the means, the end is the pout.

Not so on *A Question of Sport*. The fact is that the competitors compete. They want to win. Winning is their job, their life. You can see their pleasure when they get a question right, the anguish when one slips away. It matters.

Of course, it is not of absolutely colossal importance — like, say, winning a football match — but the fact is that every competitor really wants to win, really wants the other side to lose. The long-running bantering rivalry that has existed between every pair of captains that ever played the game is not chance. It is the inevitable result of two men playing a silly, mildly diverting game that both very much want to win.

It is this aspect, that of actually caring about the result, that sets the programme apart from all other celeb shows. Most have famous people without the spice of competitiveness. They care all right on *University Challenge*, but students lack the spice of fame.

Only *A Question of Sport* does the double: famous people wanting to win. You can see it in every famous face. They can't help but give themselves away.

Clive James, writing on his own appearance on *University Challenge* some time back in the Pleistocene: "A man of the world, I struggled not to look too pleased as we swept to victory. The camera probably saw the struggle. Personality is the thing it catches. Everything else it lets go."

TEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT A QUESTION OF SPORT

- Eight million people watched the first programme, which was broadcast in 1970 from a disused Methodist Church in Dickenson Road on the edge of Manchester's Moss Side district. The last series had a total audience of 250 million.
- Every one of the regular captains over the years has received a title in the Honours List.
- The original captains were Henry Cooper OBE, and Cliff Morgan MBE, with David Vine as questionmaster. David Coleman OBE took over the chair in 1979.
- Other team captains have included: Freddie Trueman OBE (1976), Brendon Foster MBE (1977), Bobby Moore OBE (1978), Gareth Edwards MBE (1979-81), Willie Carson OBE (1981-82), Emlin Hughes OBE (1979-81 and 1984-88), Bill Beaumont OBE (1982-present), Ian Botham OBE (1988-present).
- Soccer heroes George Best and Tom Finney were guests on the programme. Legend has it that Best was late.
- In 1987, HRH The Princess Royal became the first member of the Royal Family to appear on a television quiz show when she was a guest on *A Question of Sport*.
- It is probably easier to get a ticket for the FA Cup Final than it is for a recording of *A Question of Sport*. There is a two-year waiting list for tickets.
- All the questions are rehearsed on the day of each recording with two teams of pub quiz experts. None of the contestants have any prior knowledge of the questions.
- Paul Gascoigne once appeared as the "mystery personality" dressed as Jerry Lee Lewis performing "Great Balls of Fire", and Jonathan Davies was filmed while attempting a bungee jump.
- The programme has a big following in Holland, where viewers can pick up BBC1. The rights of *A Question of Sport* have been sold to Germany and New Zealand.

Four Weddings and a TV hit

FOLLOWING on from the hugely successful *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the scriptwriter Richard Curtis has had an immediate hit with a situation comedy, writes Alexandra French.

The critical and ratings success of his *Vicar of Dibley*, starring Dawn French as a priest, provides new hope for a genre which at times last year appeared to be flagging. Only four sitcoms feature in our chart of light entertainment programmes, all of them on BBC1 — and one is a repeat of a 1975 edition of *Dad's Army*, which had already been repeated in 1991.

BBC1's decision to stick with

The Brittas Empire, starring Chris Barrie as a neurotic leisure-centre manager, and now in its fifth series, is starting to pay off. The first episode, broadcast in January 1991, was not particularly well received by the critics and was seen by 6.5 million viewers. But audiences have steadily built up in the past four years as the scriptwriters, Andrew Norris and Richard Feghan, have become more confident, making the behaviour of their characters increasingly surreal.

This is *Your Life*, based on an American radio show of the late 1940s and launched on British television in 1969, is still going strong,

holding ninth position in our chart since its transfer from ITV to BBC1. At its peak in the late 1970s and early 1980s, it won audiences of between 19 and 20 million.

Thanks to its latest light-entertainment production, the National Lottery live draw, BBC1, with 11 chart entries as against ITV's nine, is just ahead of the competition.

ITV's Saturday evening viewing figures, however, are holding up pretty well against the lottery draw. Cilla Black's *Blind Date*, whose audiences ranged between 10.5 and 13 million before the lottery, was watched by 11.7 million viewers in the week ending December 18.

THE TIMES TV TOP 20: LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

December 12 to 18, 1994

Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producers	Genre	Aud (m)
1 The National Lottery Live	Sat	18.51	BBC1	BBC	Special events	15.0
2 The Big Game	Sat	18.14	ITV	LWT	Game show	13.9
3 The Big Game	Sun	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	12.8
4 The Big Game	Tue	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.2
5 The Big Game	Wed	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.2
6 The Big Game	Thu	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
7 The Big Game	Fri	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
8 The Big Game	Sat	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
9 The Big Game	Sun	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
10 The Big Game	Mon	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
11 The Big Game	Tue	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
12 The Big Game	Wed	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
13 The Big Game	Thu	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
14 The Big Game	Fri	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
15 The Big Game	Sat	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
16 The Big Game	Sun	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
17 The Big Game	Mon	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
18 The Big Game	Tue	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
19 The Big Game	Wed	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1
20 The Big Game	Thu	20.30	ITV	LWT	Family show	11.1

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Holidays: what lies behind the big discounts?

Twenty per cent off a summer trip?

Alan Mitchell takes a hard look at the economics of the sunshine market

Most of us may have passed the Christmas break in a blur, but for one group of people it was the busiest time of the year. A third of all British holidays are sold during between Christmas and the end of January, and with price wars like the current one, on the ball reactions are critical.

This year Lunn Poly, Britain's biggest travel agency chain, jumped the gun by announcing 12 per cent across the board price cuts on the Tuesday before Christmas. That was quickly matched by Going Places and Thomas Cook, the number two and three travel agency chains respectively. In addition, they rushed out a 20 per cent off offer on some holidays. That, in turn, was matched exactly by Lunn Poly.

The tit-for-tat battle continues into the New Year. "We are expecting to change our offers and our tactics throughout January," says Going Places marketing director Kevin Welch. "Lunn Poly will always offer the best value on the high street," replies its marketing director Peter Povey.

But this is not any common-or-garden price war. Traditionally, holiday price wars are fought by tour operators. This time it is travel agents. Second, this isn't a matter of shifting unsold stock but a battle for power. While a tidal wave of advertising bombardment with price messages, the real weapon is more subtle, to be deployed quietly behind the scenes — commission.

Most tour operators pay travel agents a basic 10 per cent commission for selling their holidays. By offering 12 per cent off all holidays Lunn Poly is effectively passing all of this commission to the consumer. It can afford to. Because it sells one in four holidays it can earn extra money from the "volume over rides" it negotiates with most operators. Only one regularly refuses. As a matter of policy, the market leader Thomson Holidays never offers more than 10 per cent commission. Luckily for Lunn Poly, it is owned by Thomson.

"Thomson are trying to squeeze us by ratcheting the discount higher," says Mr Welch, of Going Places. "What they do in transfer pricing between the two of them [Thomson Holidays and Lunn Poly] is a matter for them," he comments, but now "Lunn Poly have pushed things to such a level that we are almost forced to discount Thomson holidays at un-economic levels."

Going Places, which is owned by Airtours, Thomson's main tour-operating rival, is retaliating by discriminating against Thomson Holidays in its 615 outlets. While it matches Lunn Poly's 12 per cent cut on most holidays, the reduction on Thomson holidays is closer to 6 per cent. "Thomson are very unhappy about it," Mr Welch admits. "But all we are doing is trying to equalise the net margin we make."

Question: is this sort of tit for tat marketing good for consumers? No, says Chris Robinson, group marketing manager at First Choice, Britain's third biggest tour operator. Consumers may benefit in the short term, but many smaller independent travel agents are being starved out, and as today's

price wars concentrate power in the hands of two or three groups the logical outcome will be higher prices and a reduction of choice.

Worse, the price wars may be more apparent than real. Most holidays are sold after the Christmas break, so heavy discounting then generates good publicity without costing too much in margin. Already the 20 per cent discount offers have been revised down to 15 per cent. Worse, whether it's 15 per cent or 20 per cent, the offer that's been advertised so widely applies only to holidays from one small company: Inspirations and Styles.

The warring travel agents chose to promote Inspirations because it is neutral but has enough holidays available to be credible. Says Inspirations chief executive Vic Satoh.

It would be too inflammatory for one of them to use their own companies for a special offer. We are the beneficiaries of the competitive conflict between Thomson's and Airtours, because neither

Lunn Poly

UP TO 25% OFF RCCL CRUISES

Special Christmas Offer! Book a holiday before Christmas and you'll receive a 25% discount on the cruise price. Book now! Book now! Book now!

Book now! Book now! Book now!

Lunn Poly and Going Places battle it out with Christmas price cuts galore

Going Places

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Up to **15% off**

Book now! Book now! Book now!

"What they lose on holidays they gain on insurance, exchange and interest"

wants an all-out price war but they do want a discount message that is sexy to the public."

By offering Inspirations at an extra discount all the travel agents attract footfall and can sell the rest of their holidays at a lower level of discount than they would otherwise. Mr Satoh suggests. And what they lose in commission on insurance, foreign exchange and from interest on cash from early bookings, he adds, "it is the semblance of a price war."

Nevertheless, Mr Welch points out, behind the smokescreen a significant power shift is taking place. "What we are seeing is the sort of thing that went on in groceries 20 years ago," he says. Then, emerging multiples like Sainsbury and Tesco used low prices to boost their market share. Now, companies like Going Places, which undertook an expensive rebranding exercise a year ago, are doing the same.

The industry is rapidly becoming

NEWS

Budget control for legal aid

The Lord Chancellor will next week unveil proposals for a legal aid system controlled by a regional network of NHS-style fundholders, working within budgets that strictly limit how much money they can hand out.

The proposals by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, described as a major restructuring of the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme, spell the end of a demand-led approach and the dominant role of lawyers in settling publicly-funded disputes. **Page 1**

Russians retreat from central Grozny

Battered Russian troops retreated from central Grozny leaving hundreds of bodies and destroyed tanks in the ruined streets around the Presidential Palace. On the fourth day of street fighting, the Chechens consolidated their position after halting the assault and even counter-attacked. **Pages 1, 8**

West case review

An urgent review of the case against Rosemary West is to be held by prosecution and defence lawyers after her husband's suicide in jail. **Pages 1, 3**

Jail risk

Prison governors were warned three months ago that men under 25 serving sentences for burglary and robbery were key figures in recent disturbances. **Page 1**

Plane sabotage query

Five skydivers escaped unhurt after bailing out of a light aircraft which police believe may have been sabotaged by a firebomb wedged in the engine. **Page 1**

NHS bosses' pay rise

NHS trust chief executives were awarded 6.6 per cent rises at a time when salaries for public sector workers were pegged at 1.5 per cent. **Page 2**

Hammer murder

A British woman has been bludgeoned to death with a hammer in an oilworkers' compound in Nigeria. Anne Wetherill, 37, a mother of three, died in the early hours of New Year's Eve. **Page 3**

School search

Parents of more than 140 children are trying desperately to find schools for their children before the new term starts, after a 75-year-old independent school closed suddenly over the Christmas holiday. **Page 3**

The executive stress of losing

Executives sent on adventure training courses to improve their motivation and hone their leadership skills benefit only if they are on the winning team. Those who fail to meet the physical challenge may return to the office worse off. About 40 companies in Britain provide Adventure-Based Experiential Learning for their employees. **Page 7**

Animal protest

Port authorities at Shoreham in West Sussex called for more police protection as animal rights activists gathered in force to prevent a further shipment of livestock to the Continent. **Page 5**

Retiring Tories

The present Parliament passed its halfway point only three months ago but an unexpectedly large number of Tories have said that they will stand down. **Page 6**

India buys jewels

After more than 20 years of argument, the Indian Government has decided to buy the fabled jewels of the Nizam of Hyderabad, one of the world's most fabulous collections. **Page 9**

Talks stutter

The Middle East peace process stumbled alarmingly as talks between Israel and the Palestinians reopened with bitter recriminations over the killings of three Palestinian policemen. **Page 9**

Noon showdown

At noon today a clerk will bring the new 104th Congress to order, Newt Gingrich will be sworn in as House Speaker, and the much-heralded Republican revolution will commence. **Page 10**

Bangladesh strike

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Bangladesh as the country's fledgling democracy was fighting for life. **Page 11**



The Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry pose for photographers above the Swiss ski resort of Klosters yesterday. **Page 2**

BUSINESS

Saatchi: Maurice Saatchi confirmed that he has decided not to accept Saatchi & Saatchi's offer of a new job and that he will be leaving the company. He told employees that control of the company had been taken by a group of minority shareholders. **Page 21**

Economy: The first economic statistics for December show a slowing of Britain's rapid growth in manufacturing output and a rise in the money supply. **Page 21**

House: Prices rose 1.8 per cent in December. But the Nationwide price index gives homeowners little to celebrate. **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 0.2 to 3065.7. Sterling rose from 79.7 to 79.8 after a fall to \$1.5625 but a rise to DM2.4286. **Page 24**

SPORT

Cricket: Darren Gough was England's hero again as he snapped up six Australia wickets and presented his team with control of the third Test in Sydney. At the end of the third day England were 90-1, 283 ahead. **Pages 31, 40**

Motor racing: The Williams Formula One team have recruited David Coulthard, leaving a question mark over the future of Nigel Mansell. **Page 36**

Rugby union: A stand-off half who played representative rugby for England is striving to play against them, for Ireland. **Page 36**

Racing: The Jockey Club has dropped an investigation into the presence of a banned substance in a sample taken from Bo Knows. **Page 34**

ARTS

Spring selection: The best plays, films, operas, ballets, concerts and exhibitions during the spring are selected by critics of *The Times*. **Page 33**

Screen century: Cinema celebrates its century this year. But will the medium grow up as an art form while Hollywood excludes nearly everything except simple story-telling? **Page 31**

Lepage's latest: The controversial theatre director Robert Lepage has unveiled his latest production: a staging of Strindberg's *Dream Play*. **Page 31**

Tippett celebrated: A Wigmore Hall recital on Monday evening marked the 90th birthday of Sir Michael Tippett, Britain's greatest living composer. **Page 31**

IN THE TIMES

FILM REVIEW
A former nun and a pornographer meet in Hal Hartley's film, *Amateur*

MASTERS' VOICES
Anne McElvoy tracks Soviet manipulation of glib western intellectuals

FEATURES

Libby Paves: "The producer of a Radio 4 programme has described fear of crime as a neurosis of the age, as sex was for the Victorians. But in our case the neurosis is stoked up deliberately." **Page 12**

Capital idea: Magnus Linklater submits to the Millennium Commission his own scheme. **Page 12**

John P. Webb: Look no further than the good old trouser suit to keep you warm this winter. **Page 13**

Barrack homes: Since the Armed Forces cuts announcements, more than 100 of its historic buildings are to be sold. **Page 18**

A question of success: "Other quiz shows come and go: *A Question of Sport* is always with us." Simon Barnes. **Page 19**

Brenda Maddox: The BBC should stop fighting ITV and revert to the way it used to be: sophisticated, intelligent and original. **Page 19**

THE PAPER

There's enough firepower on American streets today without a new generation of killer bullets designed to inflict even more carnage. — *The Los Angeles Times*

The "pro-life" movement seems to grow more pro-death with each new gun-blast. Murder is not justice. It is just murder — foul and heinous. And those who champion it are no better. — *USA Today*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Lena Headey plays a young British nanny in *Capri* who is accused of attempted murder and witchcraft. *Devil's Advocate* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss tries not to panic in face of a documentary about a virus that could destroy humanity. **Page 39**

CRIMINAL

Casualty of Grozny

Weakness and hesitancy are fatal in a country that respects only strength and charisma: Mr Yeltsin has shown both. It is too late now for him to embark on another policy or to snatch a diplomatic victory from the street battles. **Page 15**

Franc fort folly

Nowhere has the preoccupation with monetary union been more pervasive than in France, a once dynamic economy that has been transformed into Europe's biggest unemployment blackspot. **Page 15**

Legion of honour

The Royal British Legion has timed its relaunch today with admirable foresight: 74 years after its foundation, the charity is wisely pre-empting argument that it will soon become obsolete. **Page 15**

ROY HATTERSLAY

The argument against "escape routes" out of comprehensive schools is overwhelming. Our education system should not be a process from which the fortunate minority needs to escape. That concept confirms that children left behind are condemned to endure second-rate. **Page 14**

ROBERT RHODES JAMES

The Austrian Government has told the Secretary-General that it expects Waldheim to be invited to the celebrations of the UN's 50th anniversary. **Page 14**

ALAN COREN

I wonder whether you know that this is the 400th anniversary of the day on which Shakespeare wrote the line: "And thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." **Page 14**

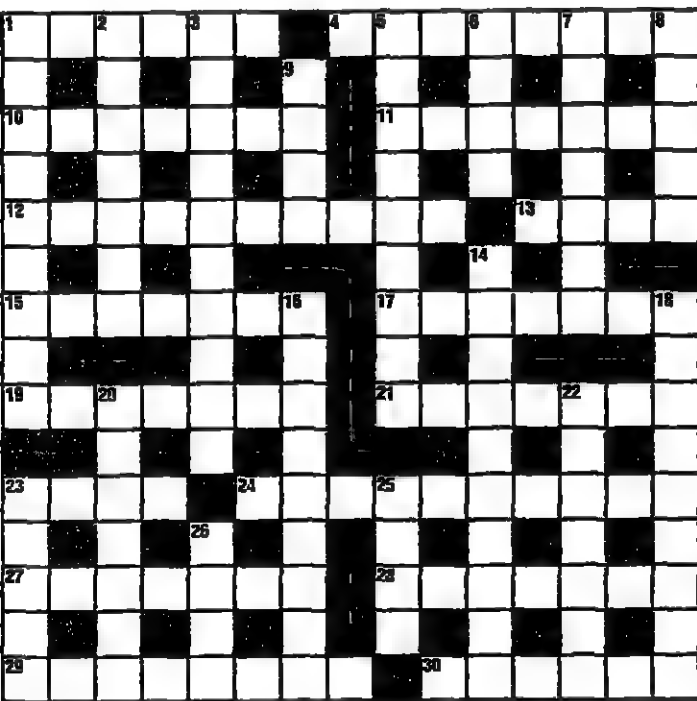
SIR HENRY PHILIPS BROWN

economist: Roger Williams, director: Air Commodore Roderick Chisholm, fighter ace: Per Federspiel, resistance veteran. **Page 17**

POWERS OF THE SFO

Page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,743



- ACROSS**
- 1 Dicky in business... (6)
 - 4 ...with Bill, strange to tell (8)
 - 10 Little money invested in second dwelling, an untidy spot... (7)
 - 11 ...a dwelling in readiness (7)
 - 12 Shrink from adopting footballer's hairstyle (10)
 - 13 Group in need of a drink, by the sound of it (4)
 - 15 James has to dig a hole for shrub (7)
 - 17 Old chap in front was a runner (7)
 - 19 Dressing, forsooth, with collar back to front (7)
 - 21 The game's rigged, bent completely (7)
 - 23 Piano accompaniment to song, a duet (4)
 - 24 The dragon's resolved to be stubborn (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Domestic crime in incidental book (6,3)
 - 2 Removes the impurities from contaminated trilles (7)
 - 3 Russian naval officer, a filer (3,7)
 - 5 Raffles a joker? (9)
 - 6 Found out it's partly open (4)
 - 7 When bird visits islands up in the Arctic, it can be dangerous (7)
 - 8 From the very first time, everyone says that you're cantankerous (5)
 - 9 Prominent person turns up here — to get a divorce? (4)
 - 14 After operation, one is unable to stop laughing (2,8)
 - 16 Seven eels stewed to provide refreshments (9)
 - 18 Happy being darkened? Not really (9)
 - 20 Moonies can become offensive (7)
 - 22 A doctor attending eastern president upset by tiny organisms (7)
 - 23 Birdseed — just what you wanted! (5)
 - 25 Weakling has swim across river (4)
 - 26 Mole is said to see with difficulty (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,742

PRESBYTER SUPER
ALFALFA CATERER
TULTE OI
HASTY SPINDRIFT
E A N O U I
ASS CROSBOWMAN
U H N O U I
TRADESECRET BOA
R C A T O P E
AVIGNON ISADORA
PAI V O T K S
HALVE MINCEMEAT

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 550 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
North East	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
North West	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
Yorkshire & the Humber	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
East of England	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
West of England	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
South East	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
South West	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
London & the South East	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
East Midlands	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
West Midlands	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
East of Scotland	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
West of Scotland	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
North of Scotland	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
Wales	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
North Wales	Cloudy, rain or drizzle
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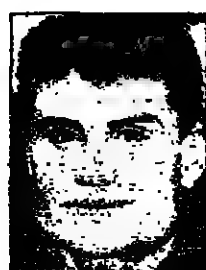
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Coulthard's deal pushes Mansell to grand prix fringe

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4 1995

Bitter founder walks out condemning backdoor control Saatchi anger at 'takeover'

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

MAURICE SAATCHI, the Conservative Party's favourite advertising guru, cut his ties with Saatchi & Saatchi, the agency he founded, amid a blaze of controversy yesterday.

Working late into Monday night, close colleagues of Mr Saatchi, enclined in his former office on the top floor of the company's London headquarters in Charlotte Street, started to fax to UK and overseas staff, the former chairman's letter "to everyone at Saatchi". Further copies were distributed yesterday morning, with Mr Saatchi masterminding his communications from his country home.

Mr Saatchi's two-page letter refers to his "sadness" at having to "sever connections" with the company after 25 years but it also represents a savage indictment of the manner in which he was ousted as chairman last month.

during an eight-hour board meeting. In Mr Saatchi's words: "Saatchi & Saatchi has been taken over. No bid for the company has been announced... but, make no mistake, Saatchi & Saatchi is under new control." Those remarks are directed at David Herro, a fund manager at Harris Associates of Chicago. Harris controls just under 10 per cent of Saatchi & Saatchi's equity but, before the board meeting, claimed to speak for more than 40 per cent of shareholders in his quest to remove Mr Saatchi from the board. Mr Herro originally focused his attack on Mr Saatchi's share incentive scheme, which could have yielded a £5 million profit over three years, but subsequently insisted that Mr Saatchi should resign from the parent company.

In his valedictory letter, Mr Saatchi states: "The new owners... have

found a simple, if crude, method of controlling the company. By threatening the directors with an ECM — at which they could purchase others — they have given the directors their orders: 'Take your chairman into a corner and shoot him quickly — we don't want the fuss of a public trial.'"

Anxiety over the possibility of client defections saw Saatchi & Saatchi's share price fall 3p to 146p in nervous trading in London yesterday.

Directors of Saatchi & Saatchi, led by Charles Scott, chief executive, offered Mr Saatchi the chairmanship of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide and a 50 per cent salary increase to £300,000. A spokesman for Saatchi & Saatchi yesterday disputed widespread reports of the proposed salary increase. He said that Mr Saatchi would stay were reflected in the recent

edition of Saatchi & Saatchi's "in-house" magazine Saatchi Eye. The banner headline was "Don't go Mor".

As *The Times* reported yesterday, Mr Saatchi's rejection of the terms was relayed to Graham Hosell, the company secretary, by way of a succinct two-line memo. The memo read: "Please inform Mr Herro that I do not accept his offer. It was kind of him to consider me for the position."

A memo to staff from directors said: "The next few weeks will be unsettling for all of us, with unprecedented speculation... we have a choice: to concentrate on this issue, or, to concentrate on our work and our clients."

Mr Saatchi refuses to comment on his plans, saying only: "I'm taking one step at a time." It is believed that he is more likely to join another international agency than form a boutique.

TO EVERYONE AT SAATCHI

The full text of the open letter sent from Maurice Saatchi to his staff in which he spells out his anger at being ousted from the company that he founded in 1970:

For twenty-five years I have had the privilege of working with you to create and build Saatchi & Saatchi.

Throughout those years, your loyalty to the Company in both good and hard times made me feel uniquely blessed.

The letters so many of you have sent me during the past week, urging me to stay as chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, have been inspiring. I will always treasure them.

So it is with sadness that I must tell you I cannot accept the offer of that position, and instead must sever my connections with the Company we have built together.

You deserve to know the reasons:

Saatchi & Saatchi has been taken over. No bid for the Company has been announced. No offer has been made. No premium has been paid. No shareholder vote has been taken. But, make no mistake, Saatchi & Saatchi is under new control.

The new "owners" — a group of shareholders owning around 30 per cent of the shares — have found a simple, if crude, method of controlling the Company. By threatening the Directors with an Extraordinary General Meeting — at which they could oust me — they have given the Directors their orders: "Take your Chairman into a corner and shoot him quickly — we don't want the fuss of a public trial."

I have watched in dismay as

some of our longest client relationships have been jeopardized, the wishes of key clients ignored, and the loss of their business assessed as "a price worth paying".

I have listened in despair as the views of leading executives of this Company were dismissed as "irrelevant" and "irrelevant". And, for the first time in 25 years, found myself in an advertising company where the term "advertising man" was being used as an insult.

I have observed how, after seeing the value of their shares rise by 17 per cent since the Spring against a 2 per cent fall for the FT-SE Index, this shareholder group nevertheless went ahead and plunged the Company into a period of uncertainty and instability.

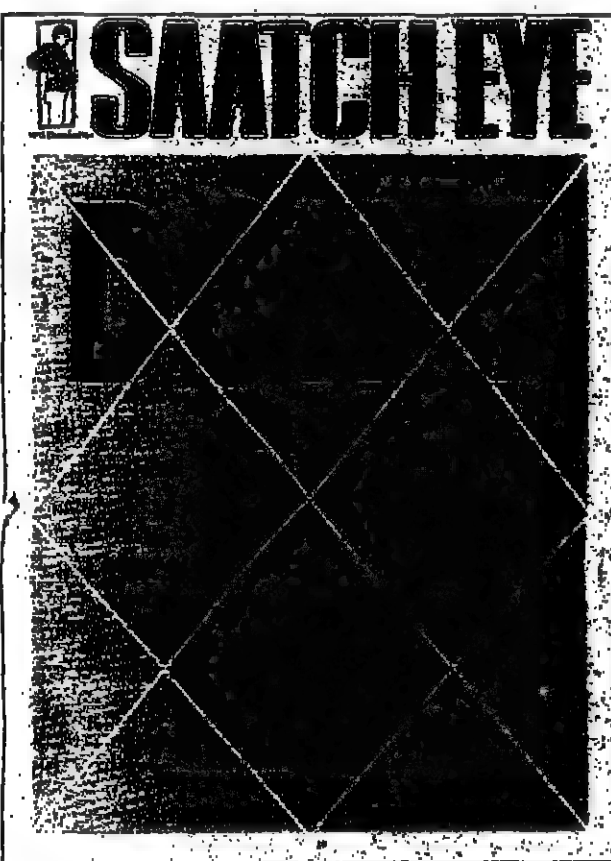
A period in which the Directors now face a lawsuit from other shareholders for breach of fiduciary duty, and in which all shareholders lost in just five days half the share price gain we have painstakingly won since the Spring.

How could I help to strengthen our relationships with our clients when, in the perverse logic of our new "owners", loyal client relationships are not understood to be the Company's great asset?

How could I reassure you of your critical importance to the Company, when the views of so many of the most respected among you have been ruthlessly brushed aside?

This enforced parting grieves me deeply. Yet I look forward to 1995 with great anticipation. Because, as we have always believed at Saatchi & Saatchi... Nothing is Impossible.

With every good wish,
MAURICE SAATCHI,
3rd January, 1995.



The company's in-house magazine Saatchi Eye reflected the view of staff who wanted Maurice Saatchi to stay at the company he founded in 1970



Surge in output growth checked

By PATRICIA TEHAN AND ROSS TIERMAN

THE first economic statistics for December show a slowing of Britain's rapid growth in manufacturing output and a rise in the UK money supply last month lower than City expectations. The money supply, however, is still growing at a rate above Bank of England and Treasury targets.

M0, the narrow measure of the money supply comprising mainly notes and coins in circulation, grew by a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent in December, taking the annual rate of increase up to 6.6 per cent, down from 7 per cent in November.

City analysts had been forecasting monthly growth of 0.7 per cent, after a 0.2 per cent rise in November. That would have given an annual rise of

6.9 per cent. M0 is monitored by the Bank and the Treasury as an indicator of future inflation. Although the annual growth rate is moving in the right direction, it is still above the Treasury's monitoring range of between 0 and 4 per cent.

Although signalling output growth for the 25th consecutive month, the Purchasing Managers Index showed its fifth successive slowdown in the pace of expansion. At the same time, the survey by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply found strong evidence of inflationary pressures. Half of all purchasing managers reported rising prices of industrial inputs. Delivery times for supplies are also lengthening, the institute said.

US judge delivers blow to BA

A US district judge has rejected a claim filed by British Airways to dismiss the monopoly aspects of a lawsuit brought by Virgin Atlantic Airways (George Sivil v. BA).

The judge, Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum, however, granted a BA motion to dismiss five other claims in the Virgin complaint, including the BA investment in USAir. But according to court papers the judge will consider Virgin claims that BA "has attempted to monopolise transatlantic airline passenger services" and that it has "used its monopoly over Heathrow and Gatwick to obtain an unfair competitive advantage".

The judge also allowed the Virgin claim to be heard that BA pursued a "campaign of underhand tactics" designed to put Virgin out of business.

Nationwide finds house prices static

By ANNE ASHWORTH, PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

HOUSE prices were up by 1.8 per cent in December, according to the Nationwide Building Society. But the society's monthly house price index gives homeowners little cause for celebration.

In 1994, taken as a whole, house prices stood still. The Halifax's price index which will be published tomorrow will show much the same picture.

Brian Davis, the Nationwide's chief executive, said: "December's recorded rise in house prices is largely a correction of a similar fall in November. The overall market remains flat, with house prices rising by 0.3 per cent over 1994."

The leading housing price indices occasionally produce a surprising upward or downward blip, unrelated to the results of preceding or following months. David Parry, head of planning at Nationwide, the executive responsible for the house price index, explained that a sustained trend can be discerned only from the figures of four or five consecutive months.

Commenting on the property market in 1994, Mr Davis reported that turnover had slipped since the first half of 1994, with confidence being undermined by interest rate rises and by Budget measures limiting the income support for mortgage borrowers.

The Nationwide predicts that if the economy continues to recover, prices will improve modestly in the year ahead.

Mortgages, page 22

Shop till you drop — around the clock

By SUSAN GILCHRIST



Archie Norman, who led Asda's successful experiment

24-HOUR shopping is set to become an established feature on the high street after Asda's successful trial of round-the-clock trading during Christmas.

Asda, Britain's fourth-largest supermarket chain, opened its store in Clapham, south London, for 24 hours on December 22 and 23, taking advantage of a recent change in the law.

Yesterday a spokesman for the group said large numbers of customers had come through the doors. The store attracted 2,000 extra customers between 10pm and 8am on December 22 and more than 3,000 on December 23.

"We were pleasantly surprised," the spokesman said.

"On the Friday night (December 23) it was like a Saturday afternoon. There is definitely a demand there." Asda is likely to reintroduce 24-hour trading next Christmas, although a firm decision has yet to be made. When the experiment was announced, Archie Norman, chief executive, said that if it was successful it could be extended to other stores.

Spar, the country's largest convenience store chain, has instituted 24-hour trading in 50 of its 2,200 outlets and expects the number to increase. The Spar stores are open round the clock throughout the year and not just in the weeks before Christmas.

Tesco is also likely to experiment with 24-hour shopping. David Malpas, managing director, said: "I have little doubt it is something we will try out although we have no firm plans to do so yet."

The group is also considering extended trading hours in some of its Metro city centre stores. "20-hour rather than 24-hour trading may be more likely," Mr Malpas said.

He believes the trend will spread through the high street. "On the whole I think it is something that will become current throughout the year, but only in a few cherry-picked locations."

J Sainsbury is also examining 24-hour shopping at some of its city centre stores in the Christmas trading period.

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...when you have to organise a busy diary...by yourself!

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Lenders put mortgage rate increases on hold

By Robert Miller

MILLIONS of homeowners should escape a further increase in their monthly mortgage bills even if, as expected, interest rates rise in the next few weeks.

Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, has signalled that interest rates may have to rise further to keep inflation under control. In the short-term, however, that will not affect the many borrowers on annual plans.

Most building societies have already set their 1995 monthly payments for their customers with annual plans, except, notably, the Halifax. Britain's largest mortgage lender with 1.8 million borrowers. The society has one

million borrowers on annual mortgage payment plans who already face a small increase from last September's interest rate rise. Now they must wait until the end of February before learning the new rate they will be paying from April.

The parlous state of the housing market means that lenders in general are extremely reluctant to make any move on mortgage rates that will further damage confidence.

Apart from a few societies, such as Birmingham Midshires and Northern Rock, most have held their hand following December's 0.5 per cent increase in the Bank of England's base rate to 6.25 per cent. New funds in recent months have been healthy and there is

very little activity in the housing market. Gary Marsh, head of corporate affairs at the Halifax, says: "There is no reason that we can see for raising interest rates any further. But if they do rise, say by another 0.5 per cent, that would be a full percentage point taking into account last month's increase. Even then the real pressure to put up our own rates would come from savers." Savers traditionally outnumber borrowers by a ratio of five to one.

Dennis Brockwell, a divisional director of Nationwide Building Society, says: "We will not increase our rates unless we are forced to. Inflows are relatively good and the mortgage market is subdued, so there is no pressure on funding. Nor is there much competition from

National Savings or unit and investment trusts. The last thing we want to do is to put off would-be house buyers. But if one of our major competitors in the top ten were to put up their mortgage or savers rates, we would follow suit."

The recently improved inflows of funds into building societies could be under threat as the end of the tax year looms in April. The lure of the multi-million pound advertising campaigns by unit and investment trust groups to attract investors into the tax-free haven of a personal equity plan might well make in-roads into building society funds. In the first three months of last year, for example, building societies reported net outflows of more than £1 billion.

MPs will investigate industrial financing

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government's internal inquiry into the financing of British industry is to be scrutinised by a select committee as part of a programme that will spotlight a wide range of the Government's industrial policies.

The Treasury is carrying out a lengthy inquiry into financing of industry in Britain by the City and other sources.

The inquiry, established by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and called the Industrial Finance Initiative, is identifying a need to focus policies on small and medium firms with potential to grow, the necessity of greater competition in the provision of finance for small businesses, and the importance of making capital markets more efficient.

But while ministers have made few public pronouncements about the inquiry's work, MPs on the Commons all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee plan to call Treasury ministers to give evidence on its progress.

Committee members will argue that the inquiry formed a key part of the Government's competitiveness White Paper put forward in the summer by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and they want to use it to raise issues such as the short-term approach to the financing of industry by the City.

They will also use the opportunity to press ministers on

what they plan to do on the overall issue of Britain's industrial competitiveness in the wake of the White Paper, which has disappointed many business leaders because of what they see as its limited practical impact.

Both the finance for industry initiative and the drive for competitiveness, which was launched by the Prime Minister, are only parts of a range of inquiries the committee is to mount into a range of policies towards business.

The committee is also likely to examine the Government's defence purchasing policy, which will feature prominently in the forthcoming report from the inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair chaired by Lord Justice Scott.

MPs say the reduction in Britain's defence spending in the face of marked shifts in the global balance of power is leading to wide restructuring in areas of Britain's industry, especially in defence.

They believe that whole areas of industry are now being centrally affected by changes in government defence spending, and broadly agree with defence industry leaders such as Lord Weinstock, chief executive of GEC, that the impact of government spending means a free market does not exist in the defence business.

MPs on the committee are expected to mount an inquiry into competition policy, taking the resignation of Sir Bryan Carsberg as head of the Office of Fair Trading to look at how regulation affects UK firms.

Officials from the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are likely to give evidence, with MPs keen to examine how companies seen by ministers as world-class, such as British Gas, can balance global operations with domestic UK responsibilities.

But the first difficulty for the Government from the committee will come when Mr Heseltine is called before MPs on the future of the Post Office after the Government's abandonment of its plans to privatise it. Mr Heseltine will be closely questioned when he appears before the committee on January 25.

Voice of experience, page 25



Kenneth Clarke meeting Anwar Ibrahim for talks in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

Malaysia considers reforms

Malaysia has promised to consider Britain's call to speed liberalisation in the financial sector, including improving more branches for British banks in Kuala Lumpur.

Clifford Herbert, Finance Ministry Secretary-General, said liberalisation could occur within ten years or earlier, when local financial companies were prepared for international competition.

Mr Herbert, speaking after a meeting between Anwar Ibrahim, Finance Minister, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that Britain felt such liberalisation would make the sector more competitive and attract more foreign investment.

British predators snap up more firms outside UK

By Martin Barrow, City News Editor

THE value of acquisitions by British companies outside the UK rose sharply last year to levels last seen in 1990.

The number of UK acquisitions in continental Europe rose to 21 from 196 in the previous 12 months, with their total worth jumping to £6.01 billion from £3.96 billion, according to a survey by *Acquisitions Monthly*, the magazine.

In 1992 there were only 190 deals, while in 1991 the value of bids fell to just £1.63 billion. UK predators also struck a rich seam in America, acquiring 130 companies for a combined value of \$14.56 billion, compared with 107 deals worth \$13.8 billion in 1993. Six

of the top ten UK acquisitions last year were in America.

Overseas companies also spent heavily in the UK. The number of continental deals rose to 112 from 105, with the aggregate consideration spent on UK businesses rising sharply to £3.6 billion from £2.4 billion. American companies spent £4.8 billion in the UK, completing 103 deals, compared with £2.5 billion in 82 deals in the previous year.

The most significant acquisitions in continental Europe were the £1.5 billion purchase by Commercial Union of Groupe Victoire, the £994 million sale of Moët Hennessey to

Guinness, and Allied-Lyons' £739 million purchase of Pedro Domecq. The most notable takeover of a British company by continental interests was BMW's acquisition of Rover Group for about £900 million.

SmithKline Beecham headed the pack in America with the £1.9 billion acquisition of Sterling Winthrop, followed by Reckitt & Coleman's £982 million purchase of L & F Household. Seven of the 10 largest purchases by foreign companies in Britain originated in America, led by Pfizer's £924 million acquisition of SmithKline's animal health interests.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

West German growth slows

WEST GERMAN industrial production fell 0.1 per cent in November, the Economics Ministry said yesterday, suggesting that economic recovery may have slackened in the fourth quarter. Year-on-year growth was 5.5 per cent. Industrial production figures for October were downgraded by the ministry to show a 1 per cent rise from September and 4.6 per cent growth year on year.

Leading German forecasters remain optimistic, with the Munich-based IFO research institute predicting sustained growth for the rest of the decade. The institute forecast growth in West German gross domestic product of 2.5 per cent in 1995, rising to a peak of around 3.5 per cent in 1996. IFO also said it expected the Bundesbank, Germany's independent central bank, to make further modest cuts in interest rates early this year. The Bundesbank's central council is not expected to change interest rates when it meets tomorrow for the first time this year.

Hong Kong shares dive

THE Hang Seng index, Hong Kong share market's key indicator of blue chips, yesterday plunged 346.90 points, or 4.2 per cent, closing at 7,844.14. Brokers attributed the tumble largely to the threat by the United States to impose trade sanctions against China. On Saturday, America issued a list of US\$28 billion of Chinese imports that could be subject to punitive tariffs unless China cracks down on piracy of American computer software, films and music. The American trade sanctions would harm Hong Kong, which is a major port for Chinese exports.

True bidder revealed

A TURKISH-CYPRIOT businessman with a casino in Moscow has stepped forward as the real power behind a plan to buy the entire northern Cyprus assets of the collapsed Polly Peck International. Elias Guezelyoglu said that his company, Elmaslar, was in talks with the PPI administrators concerning the local asset portfolio, despite a bomb attack on New Year's Eve on his bank, Everest Bankasi. Chris Barlow, of Coopers & Lybrand, the administrator, confirmed that talks were taking place.

Reshuffle at Penna

SWEEPING boardroom changes at Penna, the outplacement consultancy, saw the emergence of Sir Andrew Hugh Smith as non-executive chairman and the departure of John Beard, the chief executive. Peter Needham was appointed chief executive and David Banks, finance director. Two new non-executive directors were also appointed. Changes have been expected at Penna since December, when a group led by Mr Banks emerged with nearly a 24 per cent interest. The shares rose 1p to 108p.

Trust buys trusts

ABERDEEN Trust is to acquire Unit Trust Management and Prosperity Investment Management, subsidiaries of Century Life, for about £4.1 million. PTM manages 10 unit trusts, with total assets of about £150 million. PIM provides investment management services to private clients and PEP investors and has funds under management of £10 million. Aberdeen Trust said that it would have more than £2.65 billion of funds under management after the deal. The acquisition would enhance earnings, it added.

Eurobond sales fall 8%

THE Eurobond market fell 8 per cent last year when issues worth \$455 billion were made, compared with \$496 billion in 1993, according to *Eurobond* magazine, the industry publication. The Eurodollar was the main currency used, by a wide margin, accounting for 40 per cent of new issues from 38 per cent in 1993, although by value the figure fell to 185 billion from \$193 billion in 1993. Use of the Euroyen increased because Japanese investors became cautious about using foreign currencies after heavy 1993 losses.

Hodder buys NZ firm

HODDER Headline, the publishing company, is acquiring New Zealand's Moa Beckett Publishers for a maximum consideration of NZ\$8.5 million (£3.5 million), including initial payment of NZ\$4.5 million and profit-related payments later this year. Moa Beckett will be merged with Hodder's interests in New Zealand under Hodder Moa Beckett Publishers, with annual sales of NZ\$20 million. Moa Beckett was previously owned by its directors, who will join the board. Tempus, page 24.

Kellogg sells Askeys

ASKEYS, the UK's largest maker of ice cream wafers and cones, has been sold to a management buy-in team. It was announced yesterday. Kellogg Company of Great Britain, the cereals manufacturer, has sold the business to a team led by Alan Jones and Brian Howes, both formerly with the Pauls Food Group. The buyers, capitalised at £10 million, were backed by the investment capital group 3i and financed by the Bank of Scotland. Askeys employs about 150 people at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	9.12	1.86
Austria Sch	18.08	16.98
Belgium Fr	16.50	17.11
Canada \$	2.288	2.125
Cyprus Cyp	1.78	1.78
Denmark Kr	10.18	9.26
Finland Fmk	6.07	5.27
France Fr	12.22	12.22
Germany Dm	2.54	2.54
Greece Dr	387.00	372.00
Hong Kong \$	12.22	12.22
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Italy Lit	266.00	260.00
Japan Yen	170.00	155.00
Netherlands Gld	0.819	0.584
Norway Kr	11.20	10.40
Portugal Esc	200.00	242.00
S Africa Rd	1.62	1.50
Spain Ptas	213.50	198.50
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.52
Switzerland Fr	2.10	2.00
Turkey Lira	ref	80000.0
USA \$	ref	1.00

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

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LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
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□ Taking a tough telephone line □ Saatchi signs off with a flourish □ Romania cuts rates

BT's phoney war

ON the strength of its recent public outpourings, British Telecom wants the world to think it has become an alternative national lottery. Hardly a month goes by without Michael Hopper, the managing director, announcing he is flinging out £10 million here or £50 million there to those lucky consumers with their fingers on the dial.

The latest recipients in BT's frenzied price-cutting are all those with a mobile phone. In the US, from next month, it will cost 20 per cent less to discuss the weather or the price of pork bellies with your nearest and furthest in Slippery Rock, Arkansas.

But BT is not indulging in a wild binge of generosity. Instead, it has transformed regulatory necessity into a devastating marketing weapon that it is using to protect its dominant share of the UK telephone market against the weight of technological development and free market engineering.

Ofel insists that BT should reduce prices by inflation minus 7.5 per cent each year but allows BT to decide where to make the cuts. This allows BT to mount commando raids on its competitors' price structures and maintain the initiative in the market. At present, all Mercury can do when BT announces a price cut is swallow hard and promise to

match it. This has already stalled Mercury's market share growth and prompted it to retrench its entire business and pull back from the domestic market.

After winning such a notable scalp in 1994, BT has started 1995 in an even more combative mood. The sharp cut in its North American rates is a defence against the new competition the company may soon face from AT&T, the world's largest telephone company, which won a licence to operate in Britain at the end of last year.

If the experience of the airlines is anything to go by, BT's North American call traffic must be the busiest and most profitable part of its international business and an obvious target for AT&T. By cutting rates, BT has launched a pre-emptive strike against AT&T and any others that fancied sharing the cream. Likewise, BT has narrowed the gap between peak and cheap rate charges to just 4 per cent as a play to the business market that would be the easiest for any new competitor to pick off.

BT's increase in its line rental charges is also intended as one in

the eye for the opposition. In the past, Mercury and others have prospered from piggy-backing on BT's network by offering cheaper calls through BT's local lines, which are cross-subsidised by call charges. As line rental rises and call charges fall, it becomes more difficult for Mercury and others to undercut BT.

BT's competitors of the future will be the cable television companies, which are installing their own networks, and the mobile phone companies. Judging by the drubbing that BT's present-day competition is receiving, they had better show as much new year resolution as BT.

Maurice's long goodbye

MAURICE Saatchi's letter to "everyone at Saatchi" fully reflects the founder's perspective that chief executive Charles Scott, along with his boardroom colleagues, have effectively handed over control of Saatchi & Saatchi, via the backdoor, to David Herro, a Chicago-based fund manager.



As might be expected of someone who lives in a world where people dream up phrases such as "Labour isn't Working", Mr Saatchi does not mince his words. His essential message would appear to be that shareholder democracy isn't working, at least not as far as Saatchi & Saatchi is concerned. According to him, the agency has been "taken over" although no bid has been announced, no offer made and no shareholder vote taken.

It is the absence of a shareholder vote that is intriguing. The background to Mr Saatchi's exit from the parent company's board has been well chronicled. Mr Herro, of Harris Associates, controls just under 10 per cent of Saatchi & Saatchi's equity but claimed to

speak for more than 30 per cent of the votes. The precise scale of support for Mr Herro was always difficult to assess, having been put, by various parties, at more than 40 per cent going on 50 per cent. M&G, with 5 per cent, was known to support Mr Herro's stand.

But it was left to Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, to discover that General Electric of America's pension fund, a sizeable shareholder, had experienced a last-minute change of heart — witness the telephone discussion during Saatchi & Saatchi's eight-hour board meeting.

Alastair Ross Goobey, the investment chief of Postel, intervened before the meeting to stress that Postel was opposed to Mr Herro's call for Mr Saatchi's resignation. More to the point, Mr Ross Goobey (who opposed M&G's share option scheme) pointed out that as long as any incentive scheme for Mr Saatchi met the National Association of Pension Funds' guidelines, Postel would support the proposal should Mr Herro call an EGM.

So why not opt for an EGM at

which 70 per cent, 60 per cent, or just 50 per cent of shareholders, not associated with Mr Herro, could have had their say?

Where growth really matters

WORRIED about rising interest rates? Perhaps Romania is the place for you. The good news from Bucharest is that Romania's central bank cut its equivalent of base rate by a generous 25 percentage points yesterday. The bad news is that banks running overdrafts with it will still have to pay interest at 105 per cent a year. The savings bank has just cut term deposit rates from 70 to 45 per cent.

Such figures show officials trying to cope with an economy that was well on the way to hyper-inflationary collapse. They are beginning to gain control. Inflation has come down from 300 per cent in 1993 to under 70 per cent in 1994 — better than the IMF target — and a hoped-for 30 per cent by the end of this year. Inflation has served its usual purpose of

hiding from people how badly the economy was doing.

In Romania, bad means desperately bad. Its economy was a victim of the late Ceausescu's totalitarian fantasies. Since their fall, even that crumbled on the hard road to reform. The way back is painfully slow. After 1 per cent growth in 1993, the World Bank reckons the average Romanian had a living standard equivalent to \$2,900 a year, half that in Russia and only one sixth of a Briton's.

In 1994, output crept back up another 2 per cent, not that people noticed. This year, the central bank hopes to double that again, thanks to farm exports. At last, the people might even begin to find economic reform marginally acceptable. Freedom is no picnic East of the Carpathians.

Empty basket

SOME currencies are born to greatness, some have greatness snatched away from them. Before Denmark and Britain insisted on opt-outs from a single European currency and the old exchange-rate mechanism collapsed, the Ecu was second only to the dollar for eurobond issues. In 1994 it fell to thirteenth place. The currency of tomorrow, or perhaps 1999, is in danger of becoming a basket case.

Cellnet ready to unseat Vodafone as mobile leader

By ERIC REGULY

CELLNET, the mobile phone network owned by British Telecom and Securicor, yesterday predicted it would displace Vodafone as the market leader in 1995.

The forecast came after Cellnet reported it had gained a record 281,000 new customers in the last three months of 1994, an increase of 217 per cent over the same period in 1993. Cellnet now has 1.55 million subscribers compared with Vodafone's 1.44 million.

Vodafone, where newly knighted Sir Gerry Whent is chief executive, gained only 186,000 new customers in the three-month period. The figure partly reflects an unusually high "churn" rate — the number of customers who leave the network. In a typical year, about 20 per cent of customers drop out. Vodafone recently has been experiencing churn rates of over 30 per cent.

Vodafone spokesman Terry Barwick said the company was the victim of sub-dealers — independent agents who work on commission to sign up new users, who invented

thousands of customers. The subscribers were recorded as new subscribers and then were dropped when Vodafone determined from unpaid bills that they did not exist.

The army of counterfeit customers helps to explain the huge difference between the 313,500 gross connections in the quarter and the 186,000 net connections. Vodafone has made tackling fraud a priority and expects the churn rate to start coming down.

Howard Ford, Cellnet's managing director, said he expected Cellnet to overtake Vodafone by March. "Unless they react and start some sort of price war, though analysts said it may resort to one. 'I think Vodafone is in this to win,' said analyst Jim Russ of Hoare Govett.

Mr Barwick said Vodafone is more likely to use a strategy based on marketing instead of price to fight Cellnet. It could, for example, offer dealers higher commissions to sign up subscribers and may launch

new services. Analysts said Vodafone may lose the subscriber war but is in no immediate danger of slipping behind Cellnet in terms of turnover.

Vodafone has the highest turnover per customer because it concentrates on the business market, whereas Cellnet has concentrated on lower-margin residential users. Cellnet's strong subscriber numbers are good news for Securicor, which reports its annual results next week. Typically, it generates more than half its income from its 40 per cent Cellnet stake. Analysts estimate that Securicor will report a pre-tax profit of about £80 million for the year to September 30. It is likely that Cellnet will account for £50 million.

Separately, Orange, the mobile phone network launched last April by Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong and British Aerospace, disclosed that it now has 100,000 subscribers.

Real world, page 25



Sir Gerry Whent, chief executive of Vodafone, which is stepping up its fight against sub-dealer fraud

BAA pegs Heathrow rents at 1993 levels

By CARL MORTIMER

BAA is offering airlines at Heathrow a rent freeze as part of a package of measures aimed at placating tenants concerned about the high cost of office space and support facilities in the crowded terminal buildings at the airport.

The airports group is expected to relaunch its property services later this month with an announcement that rents will be frozen at April 1993 values until the end of March 1996. BAA has also agreed to band properties to avoid wide discrepancies between the cost of similar space in different terminals.

The decision follows lengthy discussions between Heathrow Airports Limited (HAL), a BAA offshoot, and the airline operators, who have lobbied hard for stability in rents at Heathrow. Hard-pressed airlines have previously complained about rent increases of 15 per cent or more at a time when the cost of office space was plummeting across London. In 1993 a document circulated by airline operators alleged that rents at Heathrow were double those outside the airport.

Dennis Taylor, head of property at British Airways, welcomed the move on rents by HAL. "It is a major shift from the previous policy. There was effectively a monopoly supplier. They have responded effectively and agreed to enter into discussions about how to increase the space available." Airlines complained that HAL took advantage of the huge influx of carriers to Heathrow from Gatwick following relaxation of the traffic distribution rules. At one point rents peaked at nearly £60 per sq ft.

Under the new policy, it is expected that rent reviews that fall due prior to the end of March 1996 will use April 1993 as the benchmark for determining the market rate.

BAA has been increasing the amount of space at Heathrow with a huge building programme in a bid to reduce congestion. The airports group, which in November announced half-year profits of £265 million, expects to spend £1.4 billion over the next three years, including preparatory work on the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow.

Tempus, page 24

Payout for victims of junk-bond firm crash

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN court has approved a final settlement in a four-year legal wrangle centred on First Executive, the junk-bond specialist company that crashed in spectacular fashion in 1991. The firm was headed by Fred Carr and purchased junk bonds through Michael Milken at Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Los Angeles judge ordered the \$36 million settlement between policyholders of First Executive and its former officers, directors and auditors. The policyholders had accused Mr Carr, Mr Milken and others of fraud in relation to the collapse of Executive Life, the company's life insurance unit.

According to reports, Deloitte and Touche, criticised by regulatory officials for issuing "clean" opinions on Executive Life's finances, is responsible for about \$22 million of the settlement. A California insurance commissioner was quoted as saying that the claims against Mr Milken were to be settled separately, and that policyholders could expect at least \$150 million from those claims over a five-year period.

Another settlement reached with Drexel Burnham Lambert is expected to yield some \$60 million.

Between 1983 and 1987, Mr Milken is said to have made \$1.1 billion in salary. In 1990, he confessed to fraud and insider-trading and was fined \$200 million and sentenced to jail for ten years. He was recently reported to be in bad health.

Zeneca sells garden business to Miracle

By SARAH BAGNALL

ZENECA, the pharmaceutical and agrochemicals group, has pulled out of the amateur gardener market with the sale of its garden and professional products businesses for £37 million in cash.

Zeneca Garden Care and Zeneca Professional Products, which operate principally in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, have been sold to Miracle Garden Care, a company formed especially for the purchase.

The businesses supply garden chemicals and fertilisers, including brands such as Weedol, Patchclear, Grasshopper and Miracle Gro, to amateur gardeners and a specialised range for the professional market. Sales in 1993 were £34 million. Alan Pink,

chief executive of Zeneca Agrochemicals, said: "It is a good and well established business, but it is no longer core to our main activities in the international agricultural market on which we need to concentrate fully."

The business was the only part of the group's agrochemical operation that supplied the retail market. Zeneca Agrochemicals turnover was £1.2 billion in 1993.

The businesses' 191 employees are being transferred to the Miracle Garden Care on existing terms and conditions. John Wilson, general manager, Zeneca garden and professional, and Zeneca crop protection, is to become chief executive of the new company. Miracle's main shareholders

are Advent International and Charterhouse Development Capital, venture capital providers, and Stern's Nurseries, owners of the Miracle Gro brand of garden products. Zeneca shares rose 1p to 880p. Glaxo announced the resignation of Hiroshi Konishi, executive director responsible for Japan, to allow him to "devote all of his efforts to the management of Nippon Glaxo and the development of the Japanese market for Glaxo's products." Mr Konishi remains president of Nippon Glaxo, which he and his family jointly own with Glaxo. The company has changed its name from Glaxo Holdings to Glaxo plc.

Tempus, page 24

US toymaker feels chill in Britain

TOYS 'R' Us, the American out-of-town toy chain that has grown rapidly in the UK, has suffered its first setback in this country (Susan Gilchrist writes).

The group admitted that like-for-like sales in the UK fell in the 11 months to December 25. Canada and Germany were also down. However, overall group sales rose 10.6 per cent to \$8.25 billion from \$7.46 billion over the same period. Underlying sales in the US, its largest market, rose 3 per cent.

In the UK, the chain has faced increasing competition from high street retailers opening on Sundays. Michael Goldstein, chief executive, said market share was up and the chain would report significantly higher earnings compared with last time.

Copper speculators hurt gold market

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of making money by speculating in copper was a feature of metal markets last year, which worked against investment in gold in 1994, says the latest update of the gold market by Gold Fields Mineral Services.

Selling of gold by the private sector was further compounded by a series of US interest rate increases. The private sector became increasingly doubtful that gold would breach the \$400 an ounce level in 1994, "and US investment funds and other institutional holders, which had built up significant positions in 1993, thus gradually exited from the gold market", the survey says.

However, sales of gold by the official sector fell to only 46 tonnes last year — less than a

teenth of the levels seen in each of the previous two years.

The authors are "encouraged" by the initial readings of net official sales, observing that "this represents a tremendous change from the exceptionally high level of disposals in 1992 and 1993".

However, GFMS suggests that net sales of 46 tonnes should be viewed with some caution because of the uncertainties in proving the true level of official sales in any given period.

At best, if inflation does rise to worrying levels, investor interest in gold could be rekindled. At worst, with further rises in US rates and a recovery in the dollar, the risk of a repeat of 1994's level of disinvestment looks rather low.

Mexico takes desperate steps to halt peso's slide

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MEXICO CITY



Economic curbs will hurt all Mexican citizens

THE beleaguered Mexican Government yesterday announced sweeping measures to stop the peso's slide and get the economy back on track.

In a desperate move to restore economic stability the government said all sectors of society would have to pay a price to prevent the country from falling into a deadly spiral of high inflation and further devaluation of the battered peso.

President Ernesto Zedillo was due to address the nation to explain the measures, which many Mexicans fear could prompt widespread social unrest.

The plan calls for wage increases of 10 per cent, not enough to offset a 30 per cent plunge in the peso since the government announced a devalua-

tion on December 20. It said the peso would continue to float freely in world markets as the country tries to protect its few remaining international reserves. Mexico's reserves, which totalled \$17 billion two months ago, were down to \$6.14 billion in December. The run on the peso was prompted by investor fears about a growing current account deficit that stood at \$28 billion at year-end and the unresolved peasant rebellion in the state of Chiapas.

The rescue plan calls for cutting the deficit to \$14 billion in 1995 by slowing growth to between 1.5 and 2 per cent for the year and curbing government spending by 1.3 per cent of gross domestic product.

As part of an effort to open the

country to greater private investment and raise much-needed capital, the government said it would auction off the radio spectrum and allow private ownership of satellites. On Monday, it said it would privatise railways and speed up the sale of state-owned container terminals in Mexico's ports. It also said that local telephone services, exclusively run by the privately-owned Telefonos de Mexico, would be opened immediately to competition.

Under the rescue plan, Telefonos de Mexico also will lose its stranglehold on long distance service sooner than expected, with the start date for new providers advanced from January 1997 to August 1996.

Mexico will be helped in its rescue

effort by an \$18 billion bailout provided by the US, Canada, central banks in the Bank for International Settlements, and private banks. The consortium will provide credit lines for Mexico to fend off attacks on the peso while it tries to replenish its reserves.

Part of that money may go towards new securities, denominated and payable in dollars, which will be offered to holders of Mexican treasury bonds, or Tesobonos. Some \$30 billion in Tesobonos come due this year, so the cash-starved government hopes investors will take the securities, being developed in conjunction with investment banks, instead of demanding payments Mexico cannot afford.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Maurice and Charles who?

PERHAPS the real reason why Maurice Saatchi has decided to call it a day lies in one of the questions put by Jeremy Paxman to the team from Queen's University, Belfast, during the festive edition of *University Challenge* on BBC2. Paxman: "Which highly successful company bearing the name of its founders was established by the brothers Charles and Maurice in 1970?" Panel (heavily conferring) ... (mutter, mutter) ... (much head scratching) ... (mutter, mutter) ... Paxman (in his best indignant voice): "No idea? It was Saatchi & Saatchi, of course (more indignation) the very famous advertising agency — the most famous campaign being for the Conservatives in the 1979 election." Panel (more shaking of heads, and in a despondent aside) "Never heard of it."

Sweet talk

CUT-PRICE beer and wine are not the only problems the DTI have to contend with from British day-visitors to France. A price advantage of 40 per cent has brought Yorkshire-made liquorice all sorts into the same category. Hypermarkets at Calais are selling boxes made by Bassetts of Sheffield for about £2.70, which eager sweet-tooths are bringing back to the UK where they would have to pay £6, according to Peter Hardy MP, who is raising the issue with Michael Heseltine.



"So I said, why not let it as global advertising space?"

Just reward

HATS off to John Brown of Binder Hamlyn, who was created a CBE in the New Year's Honours for services to taxation policy. Brown, the firm's principal VAT consultant, has spent the past 21 years following the ways of the VATman, set up a VAT practice for Arthur Young in 1972, and has advised countries from Greece to Singapore on the implementation of the dreaded tax. But there is a kinder side to him — down the years, Brown has raised more than £10,000 by running marathons for charities including Action on Addiction and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

£10 a head

I AM pleased to learn that The Savoy group has started 1995 in a generous mood ... well, at four of its restaurants at least. For this month only, the hungry and those with only £10 to spend on food can dine at either The Penquin at The Berkeley, The Causeway at Claridge's, at Grill St Quentin and/or at Simpson's-in-the-Strand for just a fiver. Just in case the cynical think the offer is only for the first two in a long queue of hopefuls, I am assured that the dining room capacity of the four establishments is 450. There are two conditions — You must sit down before 8pm, and "guests are cordially reminded of our jacket and tie dress code".

COLIN CAMPBELL

Experience forges voice for industry at Westminster

Philip Bassett looks at how a committee and its chairman have helped to shape government policy

On the wall behind his Commons office desk, Richard Caborn has a large photograph of a big steel ingot glowing white-hot as it emerges from a Sheffield furnace. "I built that," he says, jerking his thumb at the plant. "First job I had after I served my time. All gone now, of course."

Such a deep and personal knowledge of British industry is what informs his work as chairman of the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee and is one of the reasons most business leaders are respectful, and even slightly fearful, when they are summoned before the influential committee to give evidence.

"Caborn is a very sharp chairman," says a prominent industry leader who has appeared in front of the committee. "The committee is right on the ball: just look at what they've done over the past year — in front of the Government every time."

On Britain's industrial competitiveness, on the future of the Post Office, on information superhighways, on increasing competition in the gas industry — the committee has led the way, prompting respectively from the Government a White Paper, a Green Paper and an eventual decision to abandon privatisation, a full Government command statement and a Bill that will go into the Commons this year in very different form because of the committee's hearings.

The first important shift in the standing of the committee came with the debate over the Government's pit closure announcements in October 1992, not long after Mr Caborn, the Labour MP for Sheffield Central, took over the committee's chairmanship.

In the face of the public outcry over the announced closures and the loss of 30,000 miners' jobs, two parallel inquiries were established: the committee's in public, and behind closed Whitehall doors, the Department of Trade and Industry's.

In fact, both tracked each other closely, with ministers clearly using the committee inquiry as a public sounding board on a highly sensitive issue, testing out the ground before issuing their own white paper on coal.

Mr Caborn is aware of the dangers of the committee being used in such a way — but believes they are outweighed by the opportunity to scrutinise properly the Government's industrial policies and give industry a public voice at Westminster.

Just as the coal inquiry proved commercially vital in determining the market — or lack of it — for coal, so too have subsequent inquiries by the committee been of genuine financial importance in shaping the industries they were examining, and those involved have been keen — very keen — to know what was going on.

As Judith Church, Labour MP for the industrial constituency of Dagenham,



Richard Caborn relishes the opportunity to scrutinise the Government

put it in the Commons about the hearings on gas: "People were refused entry to the hearings, and some who did get in had to sit on the floor because so many potential gas suppliers wanted to get a sniff of the money that they would make. One could barely hear the evidence being given for the sound of lips smacking in anticipation."

The committee's inquiry surprised and disconcerted even the lip-smackers with the depth of its investigation. "We thought it wouldn't be much," says one manager in a potential gas supply company. "We were wrong. It went deep in and got to the heart of things in a way we simply hadn't expected."

The hearings changed the forthcoming Bill, shifting ministers from their initial plans to open up substantial slices of the industry to competition immediately to a few much smaller-scale pilot schemes.

In the same way, the inquiry into the future of the Post Office was not just an exposition of the argument about what

was to happen to the PO, but an important part of it, drawing for the first time a clear rejection by the Government of the "halfway-house" option of greater commercial freedom within continuing public ownership. PO leaders privately join MPs in hoping that the committee's revisiting of the issue this month will force the Government again to make a substantial statement on the key industry — even if it is one which, following the privatisation fiasco, is embarrassing for ministers.

Part of the reason the committee is now a force in industry, and especially in that shifting area where industry and government come into contact, is because industry rates the committee. Business leaders with experience of parading before MPs in the committee corridor of the House have a rough ranking for TISC — behind the powerful Public Accounts Committee, with the spectre of the National Audit Office lurking; but ahead — well ahead — of the Commons Employment Committee,

chaired by Greville Janner, which tends to irritate business leaders hugely.

How importantly industry rates a committee such as the Trade and Industry Committee is reflected in the quality of evidence business submits, which is usually of a high order. For example, taken together the papers put in as evidence to the inquiry on competitiveness last year from companies such as British Steel, Glaxo and Ford, Dixons, GKN, ICI, CEC and Courtauld's easily remain the best current descriptions of the state of British industry. "It's hard work getting our stuff as good as we can," says one industry leader. "With Caborn's committee, it's worth it. With Janner's lot, it just isn't" — though it is Mr Janner's committee which, this month, under his probing chairmanship, MPs expect will make Cedric Brown, British Gas chief executive, squirm about his recent 75 per cent pay rise.

Business leaders reckon that the trade committee has a good balance, with Mr Caborn's chairmanship closely matched by Keith Hampson, the Conservative MP who often acts almost as a co-chairman. That balance is reflected in the fact that under Mr Caborn's chairmanship, all of its reports — no matter how sensitive the issue — have been agreed by all sides, sharply decreasing the likelihood of their simply being dismissed unread and unacted upon. Mr Caborn regards it as a failure if he cannot get agreement to a report.

That coherence comes in a good deal earlier than when MPs look at a first draft report. "We do a lot of preparation," Mr Caborn says. "We think where we want to go. That's not to say there isn't argument on the committee. Mr Caborn is not universally popular, even with his own committee members, some of whom tried hard to unseat him once — a move he not only parried, but then topped when he threatened to resign in the final moments of the committee's lengthy coal inquiry."

And it is not to say that because business leaders prefer appearing before it to some others, that it is an easy ride. "We produce well-informed reports," Mr Caborn says, "and that means close questioning. But we do have a different style with industrialists than, say, ministers. We have to be able to put the Government under scrutiny. That's our job. But with industry, our job is to make sure that industry has a voice in Parliament. MPs accept that striking such a balance is often far from easy."

Even with the close scrutiny of industry that the select committee system allows for, there are problems. Principal among them for MPs is that there is no means of ensuring select committee reports are debated on the floor of the House: it still smarts among committee members that having been set up by the Commons, the committee's coal inquiry never made it back into the chamber.

Back in his Commons office, Mr Caborn is looking ahead with relish to the new round of inquiries — on the Post Office again, on finance for industry, on competition policy, on regional policy. Ministers may not be so keen, but Mr Caborn remains aware of the opportunity for looking hard at industry that the committee offers. "It's trying to keep ahead of the game," he says. "That's what we're trying to do."

Status symbol connects to the real world

Eric Reguly foresees an uncertain future for the mobile phone industry

Subscription figures released yesterday by Vodafone and Celinec provided ample evidence that the mobile phone, with its remarkable speed, has shed its luxury status to become another mass consumer item like the video recorder and the microwave oven.

Vodafone, the market leader, now has more than 1.6 million subscribers: it gained 186,000 of them in the past three months alone, implying annual growth rates of about 50 per cent. Celinec has added 281,000 customers since September, making its subscriber base almost as large as Vodafone's.

Howard Ford, Celinec's managing director, said that in the mid to late 1980s "Celinec was happy to get 1,000 new customers a month". He added: "Now we're getting 100,000 a month."

Vodafone and Celinec have about 3.2 million customers between them. Mercury One-2-One, a joint

victim of an army of unscrupulous sub-dealers — independent agents who work on commission to sign up more mobile phone users. Bad debt refers to a legitimate customer's inability to pay a bill. In the drive for subscribers, even checks have become lax: anyone who can prove he can pay an electricity bill is eligible for a mobile phone.

The second hint came when Mercury One-2-One's free-call promotion on Christmas Day ran into trouble. Overloaded networks meant that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of new customers were unable to make international calls. One-2-One is offering rebates to the loudest complainers.

The One-2-One promotion and the growing levels of bad debt show that the industry is taking expensive risks to ensure rapid growth. If the four main players want to add a million new customers each year for the next five years, even greater risks will have to be taken. An all-out price war is the industry's biggest fear because it would destroy profit margins overnight and possibly put one of the weaker players out of business. Vodafone seems most likely to start a price war because of Celinec's threat to displace it as the market leader. Vodafone says that it is more likely to rely on marketing than price in its effort to keep Celinec at bay. But it admits that it may go after Celinec's core consumer market for extra sales: at the moment, Vodafone concentrates on the business market. Similarly, Celinec may have to reach into Vodafone's market to keep growing.

Marketing can only go so far as the technical advantages of each mobile phone system begins to blur. Mercury One-2-One, for example, has planned its entire growth strategy on free calls. It does not charge for calls made after 7pm or on weekends.

The next few months will be crucial. If Celinec's next subscription figures put it in first place and Vodafone defends itself by discounting its tariffs, there may be a bloodbath. Consumers will be the only winners.

There is more and more talk that the best days are over

Business travel is the key, Jon Ashworth says

Declarations of airfare war on routes to the Far East

It may lack the profile of the transatlantic airfare wars, but the battle for business on routes to the Far East is every bit as intense. British Airways, Qantas, Singapore Airlines and their competitors are bracing themselves for a price war this spring that could see ticket prices cut by up to 25 per cent. Malaysia's national carrier is expected soon to increase by up to 40 per cent its flights from the UK to South-East Asia. Rival airlines will have to cut their fares to match the inevitable special offers, triggering the first price war in the region in three years. The move will be good for travellers, but will do little to help airlines struggling to balance their books.

Trends in the area are mirrored by Thai Airways International, which is slowly returning to form after the disastrous slump brought on by the Gulf War. Pre-tax profits tumbled from 4.38 million baht (£10,000) in the year to September 30, 1992 to 1.38 million baht in the same period in 1993. They recovered to 4.2 million baht in the year to September 30, 1994. The airline, which is 92 per cent owned by the Thai Government — the rest was floated on the stock market in 1991 — claims to carry about 38 per cent of all passengers flying to Bangkok from London. Qantas, which spends about £2 million a year promoting itself in the UK as a carrier to South-East Asia, speaks for about 35 per cent of the traffic. The real money lies in



Flying into flak Thai Air is trying to be more dominant in a cut-throat sector

business travel, yet the Thai airline was surprisingly slow to tune itself to that market. Business passengers typically pay up to three times the economy fare — between £1,850 and £2,000 for a London-Bangkok return, compared with £510 to £650 in economy. Only in the past two years has a conscious effort been made to change the airline's image from that of a "holiday" carrier to one offering a competitive service for business travellers. The number of club class passengers leapt by 50 per cent after Thai increased the number of non-stop flights to Bangkok from one to four a week. In July

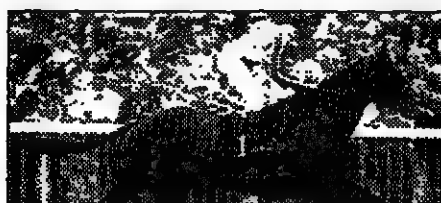
1993, it launched a frequent flyer programme, Royal Orchid Plus, which offers points for economy passengers as well as those in club and first class. Typically, between 15 and 20 per cent of passengers in economy are travelling on business. Thai has forged alliances with Lufthansa and United Airlines.

At present, Thai's load factor — freight and passengers combined — is running at about 69 per cent. Club class is generally 65 per cent full, and occupancy in economy is slightly higher at about 70 per cent. Aggressive discounting will be needed if Thai is to hold its own in the coming price

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Eight centuries of
Cambridge genius
are celebrated in
a Christie's show

ARTS

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recommend the most
promising shows of
the spring season



CINEMA: Geoff Brown looks forward to this year's centenary — and back on a unique creative opportunity lost 100 years of the greatest show on earth

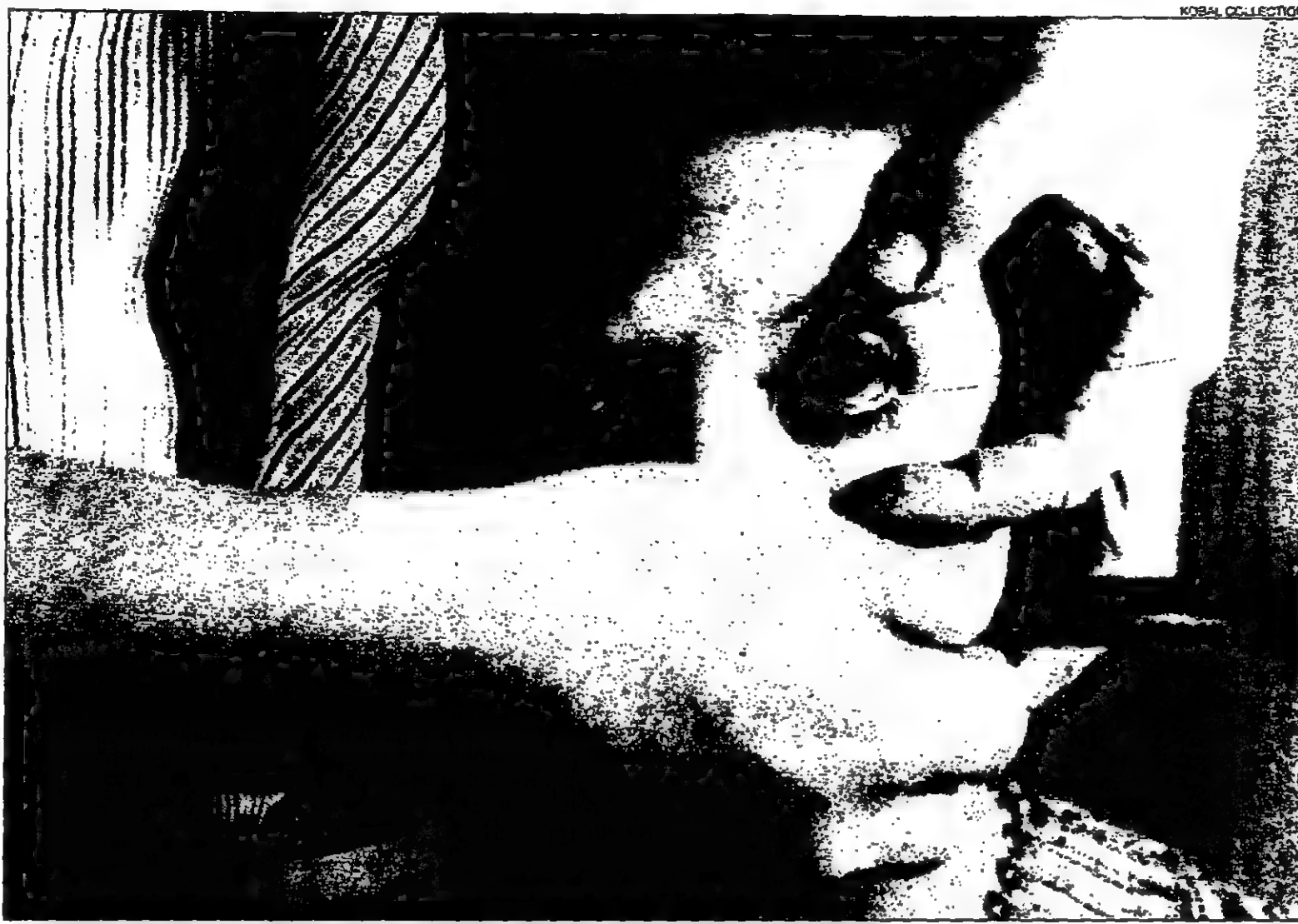
The flagpoles are being erected. The cake is rising in the oven. The Queen may be wording a birthday telegram. For 1995 is the year of cinema's centenary. A hundred years ago, the public first began paying to see the Lumière brothers' images of workers on bicycles, a baby eating, a train puffing into a station platform, and other early wonders of this most astonishing, seductive medium.

Historians quibble about the starting point. On December 28, 1895, Parisians gathered for the first public Lumière show at the Grand Café, Boulevard des Capucines. However, kinetoscope parlours, where films were glimpsed in slot machines, had opened the previous year in Paris, New York and London, and in 1893 Edison's employees had been filmed as blacksmiths, bashing an anvil, swigging beer: a smudge of celluloid that might be the world's first publicly exhibited movie.

No matter where you start the clock, a century of cinema has more or less gone by, stretching from Fred Ott's *Sneeze* (an Edison employee sneezing at the camera) to *Schindler's List* and beyond. The centenary's emphasis will be primarily on celebration: Britain's official centenary body, Cinema 100 (which begins business, perversely, in 1996), has the not-so-hidden agenda of putting more bums on cinema seats. Before the rhetoric soars too high, therefore, it might be useful to survey the medium's progress from a wider, less rose-tinted perspective.

One hundred years ago Lumière's cameras caught carefully framed, moving pictures of the world around them, while Edison's employees acted out charades for the camera, sneezing on cue. In *Vanya on 42nd Street*, released in London last Friday, for all the huge leaps in technology, the bare essentials remain unchanged. The first shots capture Manhattan's crowded sidewalks as the cast converge for their rehearsal of *Uncle Vanya*. Then the actors' charade takes over: impersonating Russian landowners and aristocrats, they pursue a plot that keeps step with reality, with a beginning, a middle and an end.

After a century, cinema



Un Chien andalou, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel's 1928 Surrealist shocker, is an abstract blip in an overwhelmingly representational medium

remains overwhelmingly representational, conveying settings and situations that maintain a realistic surface however much they spring from fantasy. Films such as *Un Chien andalou*, the 1928 Surrealist shocker of Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel, are blips on the screen, brief incursions into dreams, abstract patterns and private visions. No matter that the tools for creating brave new film worlds are easily at hand. The "morphing" techniques of *Terminator 2* or the high-tech robots of the *Robocop* films have been developed with one end: to make what the viewer sees look as ordinary and life-like as Fred Ott sneezing.

There is every economic reason for a film to appear as a slice of life, however fancily cut, and the aesthetic rewards

of placing a mirror up to the world are considerable. But there is nothing inherent in the cinema medium that demands it keep to the representational narratives packaged by mainstream film-makers' world-wide.

Consider. The basis of film is a strip of celluloid, divided into frames in which some kind of image is trapped. The image is released into public view by moving the strip at a steady speed, shining a light on to each frame and bouncing its reflection off a screen. The public's eyes then interpret each frame as part of a continuous sequence. Hey presto! A moving picture.

But a picture of what? Normally, it is something photographed by a camera. Yet scratches or brushstrokes applied directly to the celluloid

can also supply an effective image. The experimental filmmaker Stan Brakhage created one work, *Mothlight*, from the shapes of moth wings and fragments of plants. Such experimental flights never appear at your local multiplex. But they are part of what cinema can do.

Even with the photographic image, there is so much more that can be achieved. In theory the film-maker faces untrapped artistic possibilities with cinema's key ingredients of form, colour, space, time, movement and sound. In practice he uses his art to get Arnold Schwarzenegger pregnant in *Junior*.

Few forms of art and entertainment display so many signs of arrested development

as cinema. Great accomplishments have been made. Dramatic masterpieces that pierce the heart, sublime comedies and musicals, incisive studies of human folly: *Tokyo Story*, *It's a Gift*, *Citizen Kane*, the films of Renoir, Griffith, Keaton, Fred Astaire. But so much potential remains squashed by cinema's insistence on a limited, realist aesthetic. It is as if painting had stopped dead before Picasso; as if music was still centred on Brahms, and Pinter's *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* remained the pinnacle of modern drama.

There are solid reasons for the restricted path cinema has taken. The parents of cinema were inventors, more interested in their machines than in the films that wound through the projectors. Once audiences

showed their willingness to pay to see moving pictures, businessmen nurtured the baby and made it dance to public taste, using stage melodramas, weepie novels and comic strips as guides. Only by making films of wide appeal could cinema develop the institutional base that has made it such a global force: an industry that created nothing but *Un Chien andalou VI* would soon crumble.

Yet for the first three decades, young, thrusting cinema matured through artistic experiment. Georges Méliès developed a battery of magic



Robocop's gadgetry merely creates an ordinary world

tricks in *A Voyage to the Moon* and other fantasies. D.W. Griffith consolidated the editing devices that form the film grammar we all now take for granted.

By its late teens, artists from other spheres sniffed the medium's possibilities, from the Expressionist agony of German's *Cabinet of Dr Caligari* to Charlie Chaplin's pantomime. The advance guard of painters and photographers began working directly with film, like Paul Strand, Hans Richter and Viking Eggeling: while cultural observers began to wax lyrical, especially in France. Art historian Elie Faure bumbled excitedly about "cinéplastiques" and "new symphonic forms"; and Abel Gance, the director of *Napoleon*, looked forward to films made by Shakespeare, Rembrandt, or at least their equivalents.

No one makes such statements now. Movies, predominantly, mean box-office grosses, not cineplastic poems or symphonic uplift. Industry forces have taken over: the young medium has grown old. The Thirties was the key decade of transition. Independent film-making, on the lines of *Un Chien andalou*, shrank away: through economic pressures or acknowledgment of the Depression's needs, film artists became absorbed into the mainstream, or sank into silence. The Thirties saw the Hollywood machine purring beautifully, creating enduring movie stars, making films that

still glitter and entertain like no others. But as the years went by, each technological leap prompted a smaller artistic response.

When sound became widespread in 1929, some films pounced on the imaginative possibilities: too many used spoken dialogue to flatten out cinema's visual dimension. A decade later, when colour became a familiar feature, the screen shook with loud hues, but it took an exceptional director and cameraman to explore the full dramatic impact of a rainbow palette. The wide-screen films of the Fifties, promoted to ward off the little television monster, met the most rapid response of all. "Only good for snakes or funerals," growled Fritz Lang: most directors could offer only heads with spaces in between.

No entertainment medium this century has grown so afraid of experiment as cinema. But cinema is never stagnant. New life surges here and there, in different countries, at different times. European film-makers gave mainstream cinema a kick in the pants during the Sixties. Now we need another, to halt the rise of monolithic films more concerned with targeting a market than expressing the public's hopes and fears in an entertaining, intelligent form. I look forward to the next 100 years of cinema with excitement, but some trepidation.

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THEATRE: Hilary Finch on Strindberg à la Lepage

Magic cube route

Ett Dromspel
Royal Dramatic
Theatre, Stockholm

The hottest ticket in Stockholm this winter occupies the city's smallest space: the little Målarstenen of the Royal Theatre (a diminutive version of the Barbican Pit) is host to Robert Lepage's mesmeric and compassionate new production of Strindberg's *A Dream Play*.

In recent years, the most compelling productions of Strindberg's own "most beloved" yet problematic play have been those which have cut it down to size. Scene changes have been reduced to a single darkness, more than 40 roles taken by a handful of players and, in Ingmar Bergman's famous adaptation, the text itself severely pruned.

Lepage has found a way of containing Strindberg's entire swirling vortex of time and place, movement and colour, confidently and without embarrassment, using 18 actors and a single cube.

The open cube, barely 20 metres in depth, and suspended in the stage's black void, rotates on its axis so that door becomes window becomes trapdoor. And the tiny enclosed space is constantly dematerialised and transformed by a projectionist into sky, living room, cave, seaside, furnace, every dissolving dreamscape of Strindberg's imagination.

It is excitingly hazardous for the actors — and, vicariously, for the audience. And it brings to strange and thrilling life



Robert Lepage: containing a swirling vortex in a cube

Strindberg's own obsession with lantern slides, and his ideas on the kaleidoscopic effects of chance in artistic creation.

Indra's Daughter, played with both bold authority and vulnerability by Francesca Quartey, makes a slow, tumbling descent through a shifting cloudscape. As she takes her farewell of Gerhard Hoberstorfer's young, gaunt Poet, the cube revolves dizzily and form is metamorphosed into light as flames circle, unfurl and reshape into a perfect final lotus flower. The sounds of dripping water, crackling fire — and the music of Arvo Pärt and Görecki — fuse imperceptibly with the visual image.

The action steps outside this single/multiple, solid/dissolving set, designed by Jan Lundberg and Lepage himself, for only one fleeting moment. There was a sudden intake of breath from an audience still

emotionally raw from the wreck of the *Estonia*, as the main dark space became flooded, a tiny twinkling steamship sailed past, and a single lifebuoy, together with Strindberg's driftwood flotilla of Justice, Peace and Hope, floated by.

The production, like the play, is not all dark. The classroom scene is sharp, fast and really funny; the final farcical interviews with the Deans of Theology, Philosophy, Medicine and Law are conducted at a rip-roaring pace by an Oprah Winfrey figure, played with panache by Basia Frydman.

As they all squeeze through the clover-leaf keyhole, the cube revolves in a final frenzied action replay of all the production's magic-lantern scenes, in a spinning kaleidoscope.

The Edinburgh Festival has expressed keen interest in this *Dream Play*. Britain must see it soon.

A play that drips with sex and reeks of corruption...a disturbingly modern work Daily Telegraph

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From vampire movies to medieval music festivals: *Times* critics select the hottest tickets of the new season

Cream of the spring collection

THE first star of the new year's exhibitions is Poussin. He has always enjoyed a special place in British affections. Many of the key paintings in the Royal Academy's grand retrospective (Jan 19-April 9) come from museums and private collections in this country. But less familiar masterpieces from Dresden, St Petersburg and America will give a far more rounded view of Poussin's overall achievement.

A Frenchman who preferred to live in Rome, Poussin became a hero of the 17th-century academies. But Cézanne revered him, and his deeply meditated art has been much admired by 20th-century innovators as well.

Since the British came late to Impressionism, the title of the Barbican Art Gallery's new show (Jan 19-May 7) may sound paradoxical. Perhaps that is why Impressionism in Britain will be the first major survey to take a comprehensive look at how this heretical movement developed on our side of the Channel. While Degas, Monet and Sisley give the French perspective, the show should include plenty of

VISUAL ART

surprises among the paintings by Clausen, Lavery, Orpen, Sargent, Sickert and Steer.

American art lost one of its major sculptors when Donald Judd died last year. The full range of his activities is embraced in the Oxford Museum of Modern Art's ambitious show (Jan 15-March 26). Alongside his celebrated minimalist sculptures, the exhibition looks at Judd's furniture, prints and architecture. They are all informed by his tough yet harmonious aesthetic.

Even greater diversity abounds in Man Ray's long career. At the Serpentine Gallery (Jan 18-March 12), his Surrealist photographs will be justly prominent. But he delighted in mixing photography with painting, using found objects, pioneering the rayograph, making films and creating "paintings" with light. Restless and innovative, Man Ray's influence is still a potent force in art today.

So is the work of Yves Klein, whose notorious career was cut short with his death in 1962

at the age of 34. His retrospective at the Hayward Gallery (Feb 9-April 23) is called *Leap Into The Void* — a reference to his celebrated jump from a 15-foot high wall. But his appetite for experiment took an extraordinary variety of forms. Whether he was performing judo throws, directing a gas jet at canvases to make fire paintings, or smearing nude models with blue pigment to produce his scandalous body paintings, Klein utterly transformed the possibilities for European art.

Around the same time, in the USA, Willem de Kooning was producing his most celebrated paintings. As the Tate Gallery exhibition will reveal (Feb 16-May 7), this Dutch-born artist became one of New York's leading Abstract Expressionists during the 1950s. His "Woman" series, with their slashing brushstrokes, excited enormous controversy. But the show ranges from the late 1930s to the mid-1960s, when ill-health finally forced de Kooning to bring his long, blazing involvement with paint to a close.

RICHARD CORK

CLASSICAL MUSIC

THIS is a spring dripping with composer celebrations. The Purcell tercentenary party has already begun, and the Wigmore Hall's series (if you can get a ticket) promises more Purcellian delights, rare and familiar, throughout the coming months. The BBC's annual composer celebration is devoted to Hindemith (Barbican, Jan 13-15), the forgotten man of the inter-war avant-garde. Some of his erotic operas have been dug out in an attempt to make him seem more exciting than we had hitherto thought.

Meanwhile, Tippett — born just nine years after Hindemith, but still composing as he

turns 90 — is celebrated in a huge London Symphony Orchestra series at the Barbican. "Visions of Paradise" (Feb 3-26). It opens and closes with his two great oratorios, *A Child of Our Time* and *The Mask of Time*, and includes the world premiere of *The Rose Lake* (Feb 19). This, he says, will be his last orchestral work.

The LSO is also involved in a celebration of Boulez's 70th birthday, led by the formidable Frenchman himself (Barbican, Jan 19-29). The series suggests his uncompromising serialism with an icing of Debussy, Berg and Bartók, performed by such luminaries as Jessye Norman, Daniel Barenboim and Maurizio Pollini.

However, if your taste is for French music of a rather gentler era — the Wigmore Hall's charming series devoted to works written or inspired by the late 19th-century violin virtuoso Eugène Ysaÿe (Feb 18-25) should be just the ticket. The list of composers who wrote either for Ysaÿe as a soloist or for his string quartet is astonishing: it includes practically every major instrumental composer of the day. And it is apt that the Wigmore is celebrating them, since the hall was opened in 1901 by a recital given by Ysaÿe.

Outside London, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle again provides the main orchestral excitement, with the next instalment of his *Towards the Millennium* series (from Feb 22) presenting concerts in Birmingham, Cardiff and on the South Bank in London. If it's 1995, it must be the Forties — not a bad decade, musically, with Stravinsky, Bartók, Messiaen, Britten, Strauss, Copland, Vaughan Williams, Poulenc, Schoenberg and Shostakovich all in full flow.

There is plenty of early music in the regions, too. The enterprising Magenta Music agency is mounting a Medieval Music Festival simultaneously in St George's Brandon Hill in Bristol and at Jesus College Chapel in Cambridge (March 2-4). Predominantly vocal, it mixes veterans of the scene (the Hilliard Ensemble — now top of the classical charts, thanks to its bizarre CD with saxophonist Jan Garbarek) with such exciting newcomers as Anonymous 4 and the Dufay Collective.

Aldeburgh also has an Early Music Festival at Snape Maltings (April 13-17), directed by Philip Pickett whose New London Consort opens the festival with the complete Brandenburg Concertos — complemented, by the simultaneous projection of ravishing Renaissance and Baroque paintings illustrating the various allegories which inspired Bach. Hm; I wonder what Britten would have said.

Felicity Kendal: starring in Stoppard's *Indian Ink*

Olivier (March 16). Out of town, there is a promising-looking view from the Bridge, with Bernard Hill as Miller's incestuous longshoreman. at Bristol Old Vic, Boucicault's seldom seen *Colleen Bawn*, directed by Garry Hynes, at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, and some creative crossing-over at Nottingham Playhouse, where opera's David Pountney has a go at *Twelfth Night* (Feb 11).

Myself, I'll also be keeping an eye on a revival of Frayn's *Noises Off*, which passes through Bath and Norwich in February en route to what I hope are great things. My hope is great things. My memory insists it is the funniest play I have ever seen. It would be gratifying if Milliecent Martin and her co-performers ratified that view.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

RICHARD MORRISON

Body beautiful: Klein's *Untitled Shroud Anthropometry*, at the Hayward in February

"I'M FLESH and blood, but not human." Brad Pitt declares to Christian Slater's startled reporter in *Interview with the Vampire*. So begins one of the season's most eagerly awaited films, adapted from Anne Rice's novel (opening Jan 20). Eyes should widen even further when Pitt's blood-sucking companion is revealed as Tom Cruise, normally known for his clean-cut smile rather than his fangs. The film marks director Neil Jordan's first venture after *The Crying Game*: audiences are promised a richly orchestrated tale of love, ecstasy and terror.

Hollywood dominates the release schedule, though at least we are getting superior product. Robert Redford's *Quiz Show* (Feb 24) might almost be too superior: do mainstream audiences really want to watch a film that bemoans how trash television culture has killed off civilised,

Tom Cruise drops his clean-cut image and goes after blood in Neil Jordan's new *Interview with the Vampire*

CINEMA

literary values? The film recreates a once-famous scandal of 1958, when accusations of rigging destroyed the reign of Charles Van Doren, scion of a famous literary family, on the quiz show *Twenty One*. A fascinating tale, nonetheless, with strong performances from Ralph Fiennes, John Turturro and Paul Scofield.

Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle (March 3) also dips into the past, resurrecting Dorothy Parker and her fellow diners at the Hotel Algonquin in the 1930s. Alan Rudolph's film is pleasurable, though you have to strain to catch the strangled diction of Jennifer Jason Leigh as the tortured soul who gave birth to a thousand quips.

For more visceral excitement, the winter months offer Meryl Streep white-water rafting with a killer in *The River*

Wild (enjoyable hokum, due Feb 3), and William Shatner meeting his maker in *Star Trek: Generations* (Feb 17). He also meets his TV replacement, Patrick Stewart, star of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. And no movie season would be complete without its dollop of sex. So welcome Barry Levinson's *Disclosure* (March 10), based on Michael Crichton's novel about sexual harassment in corporate America. Michael Douglas and Demi Moore star.

The rest of the world peeps through occasionally. In March Britain offers Antonia Bird's award-winning *Priest*, a volatile drama about a gay Catholic priest. India presents the groundbreaking *Bandit Queen* (Feb 17), a film biography of the outlaw heroine Phoolan Devi, which has fallen foul of the Indian censor and prompted howls of rage from the lady herself. The Antipodes offer *Heavenly Creatures* (Feb 10). Peter Jackson's best film yet, exploring the true story of two 1950s schoolgirls and their dangerous, intense relationship.

From across the Channel, Patrice Chéreau's *La Reine Margot* (Jan 13) brings a bleeding chunk of French history, with Isabelle Adjani and a merry cast wading through Catholic and Huguenot corpses. For a film with a sense of cinema, though, you must wait for Luc Besson's English-language *Leon* (Feb 3), the tale of a hitman in New York. Besson's insights into human nature could fit on the end of a pin, but he knows how to make a movie move.

GEOFF BROWN

DANCE

PETER WRIGHT, the man who brought us one of the greatest of all Nutcrackers, is working on a new version of *Coppélia* for Birmingham Royal Ballet, which will be premiered at the Birmingham Hippodrome (March 3). Sets and costumes are by Peter Farmer, one of the classiest and hardest-working designers in the business. On March 10 BRB will add its voice to the "Towards the Millennium" celebrations when it becomes the first British company to perform Antony Tudor's 1942 study of sexuality, *Pillar of Fire*.

The Royal Ballet, meanwhile, is showing Wright's fine production of *Giselle* at Covent Garden (from Jan 21). The resident company then brings back Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* (opens Feb 17) in place of the scheduled revival of *Prince of the Pagodas*, which had to be postponed due to lack of rehearsal time. Covent Garden's French superstar Sylvie Guillem teams up with the Belgian choreographer Maurice Bejart again when his company returns to Sadler's Wells (Feb 28-March 4).

A northern theme for Northern Ballet Theatre, which will be giving the world premiere of *The Bromides*, based on the life of Yorkshire's most famous literary family. Instead of looking at either *Jane Eyre* or *Wuthering Heights*, director Christopher Gable and choreographer Gillian Lynne have decided to focus on the story of Patrick Brontë and his astonishing offspring (opens Grand Theatre, Leeds, March 6).

Away from the world of ballet, two of the most glorious and eccentric of British talents will have London seasons. Lindsay Kemp brings his troupe to Sadler's Wells (Jan 24-Feb 4) with a new production, *Cinderella — a Gothic Opera*, that promises "dis-

turbing and decadent excess". Two months later, Michael Clark returns to Riverside Studios, the west London venue that helped to launch his career, with a retrospective of his outrageous and original creations (March 28-April 8).

From America comes the wonderful Mark Morris Dance Group, making its first UK tour riding on the acclaim earned at the past three Edinburgh Festivals. The programme opens March 16. New Victoria. Working includes works set to Gershwin, Brahms and the country and



Sylvie Guillem: a guest appearance with Bejart

western tunes of Bob Willis and his Texas Playboys. Finally, *Spring Loaded*, the festival of British independent dance, offers 22 companies performing over three months in London. Among the most eagerly awaited is the Shobana Jeyasingh Company, which gives the London premiere of *Raid at The Place* (Feb 28-March 4), and a collaboration between Laurie Booth and the Argentine tango quartet, Cuarteto Cedron (Queen Elizabeth Hall, March 23-24).

DEBRA CRAINE

OPERA

WHETHER by chance or canny long-term planning — answers on a postcard — the Purcell tercentenary is being backed up with a fair slug of work by British composers in the programmes of our opera companies (Purcell himself comes later in the year). Walton's *Troilus and Cressida* is far from being a lost cause, more a temporarily mislaid one. It is full of music bursting with red corpses, and with peculiarly Valtesque wit in the characterisation of Pandarus, and it is to be hoped that Opera North's new production (Jan 14), with two showings at Covent Garden on Jan 30 and Feb 2, in a version closer to Walton's original intentions will be as much of a restoration job as the same company's *Gloriana*. Richard Hickox conducts; the producer is Matthew Warchus.

The happily immortal Sir Michael Tippett's 90th birthday is marked by performances of Tom Cairns's much-admired production of *King Priam* at the Coliseum (Feb 3), with Andrew Shore, Thomas Randle and Jean Rigby conducted by Paul Daniel, and the Royal Opera marks the 50th anniversary of Peter Grimes with a revival on April 3 conducted by Sir Edward Downes who, as a beardless youth, played the horn in the pit at Sadler's Wells back in 1945.

If the success of a production is to be judged by the violence of the reactions it provokes, then Richard Jones's new *Siegfried* for the Royal Opera (March 27) should be the event of the spring: the tremors caused by the first two *Ring* segments are only just subsiding. Bernard Haitink will doubtless again ensure sterling musical values, and with Siegfried Jerusalem, Anne Evans and John Tomlinson on stage, the singing should be as good as you will find today.

The ROH's other new offering is *Cosi fan tutte*, directed by Jonathan Miller with costumes by Armani and a finely balanced cast that includes Thomas Allen singing his first Don Alfonso (Jan 18). The

hottest ticket in Bow St will presumably be Pavarotti in *Ballo in maschera* (April 13), but a double-cast *Rosenkavalier* offering a choice between Felicity Lott with Anne-Sophie von Otter (Feb 4) and Anna Tomowa-Sintow with Ann Murray (Feb 24) is not to be sniffed at; nor is the Salzburg production of *Salome* with Catherine Malfitano and Bryn Terfel (March 11).

ENO also offers a new Don Giovanni, shared with Flanders Opera and conducted by Markus Stenz (March 15), and has charmingly chosen April 1 for the first night of its production of Schmitke's wild-

Walton's *Troilus and Cressida* is to be revived

ly, at times alarmingly, surreal *Life with an Idiot*. This parable about life in the Soviet Union will be conducted by Richard Armstrong and produced by Jonathan Moore.

A quietist spring outside London, where belts are being noticeably tightened. Scottish Opera present a new *Marriage of Figaro* (Jan 24) conducted by Nicholas McGegan and produced by David Levaux, and Armstrong conducts a revival of Elijah Moshinsky's marvellous American Civil War staging of *Forza del destino*, with Lisa Gasteen and the Chinese tenor Deng (April 28). The Welsh National also planned a new *Figaro* but has to do a revival instead (Feb 18).

RODNEY MILNES

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Last chance to enter our rugby game offering international tickets and satellite systems as prizes

Test your selection talents and try for points

Here is the last chance for you to pick a winning team for the second half of *The Times* Courage First XV rugby game and win valuable prizes including tickets to the Five Nations' championship. Just select the 15 players from the clubs in the first and second divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship who you think would amass the most points during the second half of the league season, which kicks off on Saturday.

The selector with the highest total will win a trip to Paris for two to see the France v England match in 1994. Second prize is a trip for two to Murrayfield for the 1994 Calcutta Cup match between Scotland and England. Third prize is two tickets for the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham on May 6 as guests of Courage.

This is your last chance to play the First XV game and join 20,000 readers who entered the main, season-long competition. If you did enter at the start of the season but would like to play in the competition covering the second half only, this is your chance. But the closing date for entries by telephone is midnight tonight and by post noon on Saturday.

THE GAME PLAN

The Times Courage First XV revolves around the players listed below, who represent the 20 clubs in the top two divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship. The object of the game is to select the 15 players who between them score the highest number of rated points during the nine remaining league matches this

season (the first is on Saturday, the last on April 29).

HOW TO SCORE

To calculate your team's rated points multiply the actual number of points scored by each player on the field by the rating beside his name on the positional playing field below.

Each Wednesday after a Courage Clubs Championship Saturday, the actual scores of all the first and second division players in the competition will be published in *The Times* together with their weekly scores and cumulative rated scores for both the whole season and the second half of the season.

The 50 leading selectors and their scores will be printed, together with the name and score of the weekly winner.

TEAM SELECTION

Select one player from each of the 15 positions below. Enter their code number beside their positional number on the entry form — for example, if Jon Callard is your selected full back, enter 001 beside position 15 on the entry form.

You must pick players only for the positions under which they have been listed, even if you know they sometimes play in other positions.

A minimum of five of your selected XV must be players from second division clubs. You may select one kicker only (denoted by a K after his name). If you pick fewer than five second division players or more than one kicker, your entry will be invalid.

The skill lies in weighing up the merits of a lower-rated, frequent scorer against a high-



rated player who is likely to score less often. You should also remember that some clubs operate a rota system, so not all players will play in every game. Towards the end of the season, with the World Cup looming, some senior players may be rested.

The list of players for the second half of the season shows some changes because of injuries and departures. The new players have a code number of more than 300 and in five positions (numbers 2, 4, 6, 7 and 13) no replacements have been picked.

These new players are eligi-

ble for the second-half competition only; selections for the first half and full season games are not affected.

The second half of the season kicks off on Saturday. Bath, the first division leaders, are away to their neighbours Bristol; Harlequins will be hoping for a revival of fortunes against Sale, their visitors, while Leicester, with their England lock forward, Martin Johnson, travel to Northampton. Two tries in the first half of the season gave Johnson (player No 205) 320 rated points.

It will be equally intriguing to see if Justin Nott can maintain his slender lead from the first half of the season over the other 20,000 people who entered the first half of the competition. The team selections submitted by all those entrants will remain valid for the whole season, with their cumulative scores from the first nine games carried forward to January. Each contestant is still in with a chance of winning the star prize of £10,000, the second prize of a trip for two to South Africa to see England's three World

Cup pool games in Durban, or one of ten third prizes of a fully installed BT Satellite system, two cases of Courage Directors Bitter and two four-hour VHS video tapes.

The selector whose team achieves the highest number of points on each of the nine remaining Saturdays of the Courage Clubs Championship — whether that team has been entered for the competition covering the whole season or just for the second half — will win a fully installed BT satellite system and two cases of Courage beer.

Each selector who wins any prize also wins a prize for their nominated rugby club. This can be any British rugby club; the winner does not have to be a player, or even a member. The winners' clubs will each receive five cases of Courage beer, a Courage Best England shirt, plus one of the following, drawn at random:

- A training session by an England squad member;
- An England shirt or training shirt signed by the England team;
- A ball signed by the England team;
- A table for ten at the Courage lunch before England's game against Scotland in March.

HOW TO ENTER

By post: Complete the entry form below in block capitals (ignoring the Personal Identification Number — that is for telephone entries only) and send it, with a cheque/postal order for £1.50 made payable to First XV, to:

The Times Courage First XV, PO Box 600, Luton, LU2 0NZ.

It must arrive before noon on Saturday.

By telephone: You may enter by calling 0891 700 515 using a touchtone telephone. Most push-button telephones with an asterisk and hash keys are touchtunes.

1. Fill in the entry form below and have it in front of you when you telephone.

2. The recorded message will explain step by step what to do; basically, you will have to key in (dial) the three-digit code for each of your 15 players.

3. You will then be asked for the name you want to give your team (which should have no more than 16 characters) followed by your own name and address and the name of your nominated rugby club. Speak slowly and clearly throughout this section, spelling out any difficult words.

4. Have a pen ready to take down your Personal Identification Number.

Calls will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times. Calls should take around five minutes. Telephone lines are open 24 hours a day. The closing time for entering by telephone is midnight tonight.

All selections received by the postal or telephone deadlines will be acknowledged within 21 days and selectors will be sent a score sheet on which to keep track of their team's performances, with a team sheet confirming the selection. If there are errors, the amended teamsheet must be returned within seven days.

All inquiries regarding the competition should be directed to *The Times* Courage First XV, PO Box 600, Luton, LU2 0NZ, telephone 0582 457444.



Martin Johnson, Leicester's lock, scored 320 rated points with two tries in the first half of the season

THE TIMES COURAGE FIRST XV

To enter by phone call
0891 700 515

before midnight on Wednesday January 4
Calls cost 39p a minute cheap rate, 49p a minute at other times. Calls last around five minutes.

Your Personal Identification Number

Team Name (max 16 characters)

The rugby club you would like to win a prize for

Your Team Selection by player code number

15	
14	
13	
12	
11	
10	
9	
8	
7	
6	
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Telephone no _____

Send your entries to:
The Times Courage First XV, PO Box 600, Luton, LU2 0NZ. Entries close 10.00 for £1.50 payable to "First XV", to arrive by noon on Saturday January 7, 1995.

1. LEFT WING

001 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
002 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
003 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
004 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
005 C MORRIS Northampton 14
006 P HANMER Oriel 15
007 M APPELSON Sale 16
008 S HUNTER Wasps 14
009 D COOKE W Hartlepool 14

010 S POWERS Coventry 14
011 S ANDERTON Fylde 16
012 V BOLANDS Lough 12
013 N ROBERTSON Lough 14
014 S ANDERSON Macclesfield 14
015 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
016 A GUNN Loughborough 15
017 P HARRISON Saracens 20
018 R THOMPSON Wakefield 20
019 S GIBSON Walsley 18

2. RIGHT WING

020 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
021 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
022 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
023 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
024 C MORRIS Northampton 14
025 P HANMER Oriel 15
026 M APPELSON Sale 16
027 S HUNTER Wasps 14
028 D COOKE W Hartlepool 14

029 S POWERS Coventry 14
030 S ANDERTON Fylde 16
031 V BOLANDS Lough 12
032 N ROBERTSON Lough 14
033 S ANDERSON Macclesfield 14
034 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
035 A GUNN Loughborough 15
036 P HARRISON Saracens 20
037 R THOMPSON Wakefield 20
038 S GIBSON Walsley 18

3. CENTRE

039 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
040 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
041 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
042 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
043 C MORRIS Northampton 14
044 P HANMER Oriel 15
045 M APPELSON Sale 16
046 S HUNTER Wasps 14
047 D COOKE W Hartlepool 14

048 S POWERS Coventry 14
049 S ANDERTON Fylde 16
050 V BOLANDS Lough 12
051 N ROBERTSON Lough 14
052 S ANDERSON Macclesfield 14
053 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
054 A GUNN Loughborough 15
055 P HARRISON Saracens 20
056 R THOMPSON Wakefield 20
057 S GIBSON Walsley 18

4. LOCK

058 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
059 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
060 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
061 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
062 C MORRIS Northampton 14
063 P HANMER Oriel 15
064 M APPELSON Sale 16
065 S HUNTER Wasps 14
066 D COOKE W Hartlepool 14

067 S POWERS Coventry 14
068 S ANDERTON Fylde 16
069 V BOLANDS Lough 12
070 N ROBERTSON Lough 14
071 S ANDERSON Macclesfield 14
072 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
073 A GUNN Loughborough 15
074 P HARRISON Saracens 20
075 R THOMPSON Wakefield 20
076 S GIBSON Walsley 18

5. FLANKER

077 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
078 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
079 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
080 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
081 C MORRIS Northampton 14
082 P HANMER Oriel 15
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091 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
092 A GUNN Loughborough 15
093 P HARRISON Saracens 20
094 R THOMPSON Wakefield 20
095 S GIBSON Walsley 18

6. BLIND-SIDE FLANKER

096 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
097 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
098 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
099 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
100 C MORRIS Northampton 14
101 P HANMER Oriel 15
102 M APPELSON Sale 16
103 S HUNTER Wasps 14
104 D COOKE W Hartlepool 14

105 S POWERS Coventry 14
106 S ANDERTON Fylde 16
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108 N ROBERTSON Lough 14
109 S ANDERSON Macclesfield 14
110 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
111 A GUNN Loughborough 15
112 P HARRISON Saracens 20
113 R THOMPSON Wakefield 20
114 S GIBSON Walsley 18

7. LOOSE HEAD PROP

115 S CROSSLAND Bath 10
116 Y SMITH Gloucester 5 K
117 D O'LEARY Harlequins 7
118 R UNDERWOOD Leicester 11
119 C MORRIS Northampton 14
120 P HANMER Oriel 15
121 M APPELSON Sale 16
122 S HUNTER Wasps 14
123 D COOKE W Hartlepool 14

124 S POWERS Coventry 14
125 S ANDERTON Fylde 16
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129 T PEARSON Macclesfield 14
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131 P HARRISON Saracens 20
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Former champion faces uncertain future after decision by Williams

Coulthard beats Mansell's challenge

By OLIVER HOYT

ONE puzzle is solved, another set. The Williams Formula One motor racing team announced yesterday what everybody had suspected for an age — that David Coulthard, the sport's brightest new talent, will partner Damon Hill next year. Then, it thanked Nigel Mansell as it told him there was no place for him and left the rest to speculate on whether grand prix racing had seen the last of the great entertainer.

Mansell has said repeatedly that he will race only for a team capable of providing him with a second world championship.

Williams has made its choice now. Benetton has said they will race only for a team capable of providing him with a second world championship. Only McLaren — whose managing director, Ron Dennis, has traditionally been wary of Mansell — and premature retirement seem to remain.

Dennis refused to comment yesterday on speculation linking him with the 1992 world champion, who won the last of his 95 races for Williams in Adelaide in November, but sources close to the team confirmed that he was negotiating with Mansell, who is thought to have received a substantial pay-off from Williams under the terms of the agreement made when he left IndyCar last year.

McLaren, though, is also thought to be interested in the Christian Fittipaldi, of Brazil. Martin Brundle, who performed creditably with unreliable machinery last season, is keen to retain his seat alongside Mika Hakkinen. In Mansell's favour, Mercedes, McLaren's new engine partner, would welcome his presence as it embarks on the high-profile stage of its return to the sport.

In Formula One, almost anything is possible. Despite all the public utterances to the contrary, it has long been speculated that Alesi might move from Ferrari to McLaren, leaving a space for



Coulthard, standing in front of the striking design on a Williams team lorry yesterday, looks forward to next season in Formula One

Mansell at the Italian team. There is also lingering doubt over Johnny Herbert's position as Schumacher's potential team-mate at Benetton. Renault, Benetton's new engine partner, is a confirmed Mansell admirer.

"With regard to my future, it is too early to comment further at this time," Mansell said yesterday. "I am pleased that the Williams team has made a decision regarding its driver line-up for 1995 and delighted for David that he has been given this fantastic opportunity."

Coulthard, who will earn an estimated salary of £500,000 next year, won legions of admirers with his poised, aggressive performances when he was thrown into the team in the wake of the death of Ayrton Senna. Last year, he had already installed himself at 10-1 to win the title next year.

He raced in eight grands prix before Mansell returned from America, finishing second in Portugal, before becoming embroiled in a contractual dispute about whether Williams or McLaren had the first call on his services. Williams

won the argument last month and, in tandem with Tim Wright, of the International Management Group, Coulthard's manager, moved quickly to construct a new and improved contract with the Scot.

"I am delighted to have reached a fair agreement to race for Rothmans Williams Renault," Coulthard said. "I would love to race against Nigel if he is competing next year. I have admired his style and his commitment from an early age and he has showed he is still competitive."

Coulthard, who is assiduously courteous and eschews the affections that often come with elevation to Formula One, had several disagreements with Hill last year. On one occasion, before the Belgian Grand Prix, they almost came to blows, but he insisted last night their differences were behind them.

"I don't think we will have any problems at all," he said. "Last season, with all its pressures and mixed emotions, was not the ideal time to get to know each other, but there will be no team orders

this year and we will make a strong team. It may take me a couple of races to find my feet, but I will aim for points and podiums as soon as possible and then a win. Once that is out of the way, anything can happen."

"Formula One negotiations are not for the faint-hearted," Wright said, "but David now has an excellent contract and a fantastic team and is in control of his own career. To have won the seat from one of Formula One's established great stars shows just how highly Williams rate him."

Last effort gains approval

By NICHOLAS HARLING

ONE brief discussion made David Last believe the whole thing had been worthwhile. In saying how high he thought the standard of play had been in the final of the world invitation club basketball championships, which had featured two English clubs, the coach of the Dutch team, Mustang Jeans Den Helder,

brought some comfort to the tournament director.

Once, Last presided over a tournament which attracted to the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace among its 16 teams, some of the best sides in Europe and South America. Then, of course, Last had a leading sponsor in Philips Electronics. After ending its

involvement in sports sponsorship, Philips was succeeded by Russell Athletic. But now, though still involved, the kit manufacturer is no longer considered a leading sponsor. Philips's backing peaked at £100,000, and without it Last has struggled to keep his tournament going. He almost scrapped it altogether after the Wire Television Company pulled out in October, having indicated in May that it would be taking 34 hours of coverage. "It was too late to sign another television deal, and without TV coverage I couldn't sell it to anyone," he said. "We were talking to sponsors, but I had nothing to offer them. I couldn't even sell [board] advertising."

When CSKA Sofia dropped out two days before the event because their sponsor was not allowed to sell its Bulgarian wine in London, Last had had enough. "I thought of giving it up," he said. "In future, my company [Sport and Inter-Media Ltd] will not be able to continually underwrite losses of £10,000 which we sustained this year."

But there is a glimmer of hope. It is provided by an as yet unnamed sponsor, which according to Last, is 95 per cent certain to support the event next season.

For the moment, Last will content himself with small mercies, such as the fact that he was spared a final between Den Helder and Honved, of Hungary. "The place would have been empty," he said. Thames Valley Tigers and London Towers, proceeded to put on a show in the final, especially the triumphant Tigers. "They were really something," Last said.

Burke spurns England in quest for Ireland honours

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SURELY it could happen in no other country than Ireland: a Welshman, the former coach of an English club, now directing the affairs of an Irish club whose charges include a potential Irish stand-off half who once played — representative rugby for England.

The Welshman is John Davies, Swansea-born and for so many years identified with Saracens but now on sabbatical with Cork Constitution. The player is Paul Burke, born and bred in England for whose schools, colts and under-21 sides he played before electing to take his chance with Ireland.

The two came together first when Davies, 51 and until recently senior master at Campion School, was helping with England's under-16 schools teams. Burke, 21, a product of Epsom College and Loughborough University, was making all the right (English) moves until, in 1993, he opted for his parents' country and emerged this season as Cork

Constitution's stand-off, once more under the tutelage of Davies, who is that club's director of coaching.

Now Ireland's rugby community waits for Davies's team selection when the All-Ireland League resumes on Saturday and "Con", perched in mid-table with a game in hand, play Blackrock College.

Burke will be there, playing opposite Alan McGowan, the youngster who made his international debut against the United States in November, but who will be his scrum half — Michael Bradley, the Ireland captain, or David O'Mahony?

O'Mahony, 24, has come racing up the half-back rankings this season. English followers of the game may recall his appearance at centre for Oxford in the 1992 University match, but even then he was a scrum half in name only. Together, he and Burke helped Munster to the inter-provincial title this season, and should Davies choose O'Mahony ahead of Bradley, he will create a problem for the Ireland selectors, who meet over the weekend to choose their side to play England on January 21.

The match includes potential international combinations, whoever plays. Permeant two from Bradley, O'Mahony, Burke, McGowan and Alan Rolland, the Blackrock scrum half. Toss in the name of Eric Elwood, who has been affected by injury. The return of Brendan Mullin, the rejuvenation of Philip Danaher, offer captaincy alternatives to Bradley.

It is a fascinating situation for Davies, who has to decide whether to swap his teacher's gown for that of rugby administration. Cork Constitution have given him the chance to extend those skills which were becoming, with Saracens, virtually a second full-time job.

As for Burke, now teaching at the Christian Brothers College in Cork, one more match should not make that much difference to the progress he has made. He is the form player, for club and province, but only six weeks ago McGowan was judged to be ahead of him, while Elwood has the experience. The likely prospect is that the selectors will stick with Elwood and play Burke in the A international against England.

Dillon Edwards will decide during the next few days whether to opt for England or Wales. The Wales teams to play France at senior and A levels will be named on Friday and the Leicester centre is expected to be in the A XV.



Bradley: under threat



Elwood: experienced

Transformed by sport's fickle finger of fortune

The beginning of my sporting year was glumly predictable: a slog to Birmingham to watch, in freezing weather, a goalless draw. It was not the dullness or the cold that got to me: it was the numbing inevitability of both. For there are times when sport seems to be a parade of inevitabilities: the utterly predictable, from which there is no relief.

There are times when, in every sport, individuals or teams seem set forever in a pattern of misery and failure. If at first you don't succeed ... fail, fail, fail again.

This is something known by everyone who supports the same football team through thin and thin. That is to say, something known to every football supporter. And they all make jokes like that one. Gallows humour is soccer's staple, just as the stock emotion is a dull loathing of players, management and board.

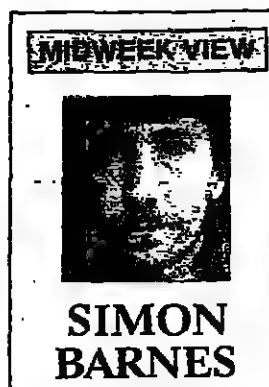
In football, teams and individuals suffer sporadic outbreaks of the dread disease of goal-shyness. Players who can hit a 50-yard pass with micrometer precision belt five-yard tap-ins into the roof of the stands. Every time they do so, ever-increasing ineptitude and fear spreads through the side. Failure becomes not so much predictable as inevitable. Then, all at once, it changes.

Take John Jensen, the midfield player with Arsenal. He joined the club from Denmark more than two years ago and never scored. Until the Christmas rush: then he scored one of the goals of the season.

He passed two years, four months, two weeks, two days, one hour and 19 minutes without scoring. Then, with that hardest of things, a swerving power-shot, he damn near bust the net. What changed things? Why did this shot, of all shots, go in, when before he had hit every stanchion that Highbury possesses? I don't know. If he ever finds out, he should tell Crystal Palace. Not an individual with goal-shyness: an entire team.

When I have seen them this season, they looked sharp and effective up front. So they are harrising the small matter of putting the ball into the onion-bag. They have now gone nine matches without a goal. "I'm trying to laugh," Alan Smith, their manager, said — failing. Think of it: 13½ hours of inutility. Why, in that time you could listen to all of Beethoven's symphonies twice. Perhaps Crystal Palace should try doing so: listening to *Eroica* and *The Ode to Joy*, anyway.

Palace are hot in pursuit of records, set by Coventry City in 1919-1920 and the pool United in 1992-93, of 11 league matches without scoring. They have a chance



SIMON BARNES

of beating the British record of 14 matches set by Stirling Albion in 1981. But more inevitable still than the glum inevitability of their scoreless run is the certainty that it will end.

Sport forever changes. The unbeatable are beaten, the all-conquering are conquered. Welsh rugby, Liverpool, McLaren Formula One motor racing team. In sport, change is the only true constant.

What, after all, was more inevitable than another dreadful England performance in the third Test match going on in Sydney? The worst team ever to leave these shores ... Bring 'em home ... Our manhood has gone soft. The glum cycle of inevitable defeat surely no English team has won a Test in living memory.

And then, all at once, everything changes. We know a game, grinning fellow from Yorkshire. But why? And why now? If he is so game, how come he didn't do it before?

One of the constant fascinations of team games is the way the nature and the fortunes of an individual will affect the lives of all around him. One grinning fellow's defiance can infect a team; but so can a single man's misery. Ineptitude spreads like

a pox: competent fielders can't catch or throw, canny footballers fail to trap a ball. Each small disaster then creates another. Rage and shame take possession of the team. Each moment of incompetence does not add to the total: it doubles it. Failure becomes a closed circuit of pressure that feeds on its own increase.

The teams and individuals move from incompetence, trapped in the cycle of pressures. It seems impossible that the circuit can ever be broken. But, almost inevitably, the moment comes.

I predict, without fear, that some day soon, Palace will score a goal, win a football match, sing *The Ode to Joy*. I predict, too, that England will one day beat Australia, just as, a year ago, they beat West Indies in Barbados. I would even have predicted that one day Jensen would score a goal. He might score a dozen. Who knows? Sport changes. It is one of the ineluctable facts of life that everything changes. Change is life: only the dead stay the same.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°C)	Last
L	U	F	O/P		
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	20	60	powder powder	good snow	-1 3/1
(Vastly improved skiing; outlook excellent)					
Mayrhofen	20	50	good powder	clouded snow	-14 3/1
(Heavy snowfalls; good skiing but still cold worn patch)					
Obertauern	35	95	good varied	fair sun	-11 3/1
(Good skiing though strong winds causing problems)					
St Anton	30	180	powder powder	fair	-14 3/1
(Excellent powder skiing everywhere; very cold)					
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	60	130	good powder	good sun	-16 3/1
(Superb snow and skiing; very cold)					
Les Arcs	35	155	good powder	fair	-9 3/1
(Excellent skiing but cold; avalanche risk still high)					
Chamonix	30	280	good powder	fair	-5 2/1
(Conditions generally excellent everywhere)					
Flaine	90	170	good powder	good	-9 2/1
(Excellent skiing conditions; avalanche danger remains)					
Megeve	35	110	good powder	fair	-6 3/1
(Excellent skiing everywhere; odd icy patch)					
S Chavaler	5	55	good	varied	-6 3/12
(Upper slopes skiing well; high windfall at altitude)					
Tignes	85	160	good powder	good sun	-13 3/1
(Superb skiing but very cold; -28°C at 3,000 metres)					
Val d'Isère	75	180	good powder	good sun	-12 3/1
(Wonderful snow and skiing; avalanche danger still high)					
ITALY					
Cervinia	60	200	good	crusty good	-2 1/1
(Excellent skiing on all open pistes)					
SWITZERLAND					
Verbier	85	185	good powder	good	-5 2/1
(Conditions could not be better; powder skiing all day)					
Wengen	50	80	good powder	good	-9 3/1
(Glorious powder skiing; perfect conditions)					
Zermatt	20	180	good	varied	-9 2/1
(Good skiing but very cold; windy at altitude)					

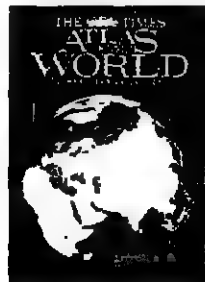
Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L = lower slopes; U = upper; art = artificial

THE TIMES

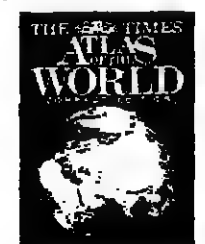
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

INKY-PINKY

(b) Small beer. 1835. J. Maidment. *Gallians* "Inky Pinky about seventy or eighty years since was used by the brewers in Strilingshire to designate the smallest kind of beer."

KELPIE

(c) A smooth-coated, prick-eared, Australian sheep-dog, which may be black, black-and-tan, blue, or red; first bred from imported Scottish collies about 1870. 1934. *Bulletin*, February 14th: "Lassie was, like all kelpies, highly strung, with brains under her broad, thin-boned skull."

MEDEVAC

(a) A military helicopter for transporting wounded soldiers to hospital. The wounded Aid Men continued to crawl about, administering care, but there would be no medevac, because there was no landing zone for it.

MOODLE

(a) To dawdle aimlessly, to idle time away. "Emily muddled about at weekends, watching old films, listening to opera and reading fashion magazines."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qh4+ Kg3 2. Qh7+ Kf8 3. Qh8+ Ke7 4. Qxg7+ Ke8 (4... Kd6; 5. Rd1+); 5. Qg8+ Bf8 6. Qxg6+ mating.

Swashbuckling Gough raises English hearts

Michael Henderson on the rise of a flamboyant Yorkshireman who thrives on the heat of battle



After two months of humiliation, England today went into the fourth day of the Sydney Test with an optimism unthinkable even two days ago. Australia's best chance of saving the game lies in the predicted thunderstorm. England's best chance of winning it is a human force called Darren Gough.

From the wreckage of the tour, Gough has not simply crawled. He has bounced. "The upstart Yorkshireman" as a Perth newspaper called him in October, built so vigorously on the outstanding work of Atherton and Crawley, with bat as well as ball, that win or draw, England may yet retrieve something worthwhile from the series.

Is it too much to hope that his spirit may infect others? Gough and, no less important, Angus Fraser showed up the specialist batsmen when their turn came. Graeme Hick and Graham Thorpe seem to have been marinated in a vat of despair. The less said of Mike Gatting, a fine and conscientious cricketer, the better. Neil Fairbrother must go straight into the side, if nothing else to jolly things along.

He can join Gough in the glee club. Yorkshire does not produce many cavaliers, and mention of Barnsley, Gough's home town, brings to mind Geoffrey Boycott and Dickie Bird, who would walk into any all-time warriors' XI. Gough, hewn from different stone, clearly believes the lady who sang the Sondheim song: "It's a very short road from the pinch and the punch to the paunch and the pouch and the pension."

The last cricketer to live through the game in such an unfettered way was Ian Botham, although comparisons can often mislead. By the time he was Gough's age, 24, Botham had performed the Test double of a thousand runs and 100 wickets in record time, and was captain of England. There are echoes of Botham's

spirit, but Gough, to his credit, is very much his own man. He was 19 when he first represented Yorkshire. The chubby chap who played against Middlesex at Lord's in April 1989 was memorably if inaccurately described by one writer as "the son of a Barnsley rat-catcher" (his father works for Kenton) and the tag stuck. Like many other young cricketers to come out of Yorkshire, he was immediately smothered by songs of praise before he knew all the words. On the strength of

DARREN GOUGH

BORN: Monk Bretton, near Barnsley, September 18 1970.
HEIGHT: 5ft 11in. Weight: 12st 10lb.
FAMILY: Wife Anna-Marie and son Liam (born November 1994).
FIRST-CLASS DEBUT: April 1989 v Middlesex at Lord's. Took five wickets.
BEST BOWLING: 7-42 v Somerset, Taunton, 1989.
HIGHEST SCORE: 72 v Northamptonshire, Northampton, 1991.
TEST AVERAGES: (batting) 101 runs, 3 not out, 244 runs, average 34.25. (bowling) 1771 balls, 916 runs, 56 wickets, average 25.52.

some promising bowling performances, he became young "Dazzler".

He did not in fact make much progress until July 1993, when England were scouting round for bowlers to take on a weekend trip to Holland, of all unlikely places. It was at the Red and White Club in Haarlem that Gough became an international cricketer of sorts, albeit for an "England XI" that was doing missionary work. Furthermore, they were beaten. Nobody imagined then that within a year he would be a Test player.

On the A tour to South Africa last winter, Gough was a sophomore. "We need to know whether he will ever make a third seamer," Bob

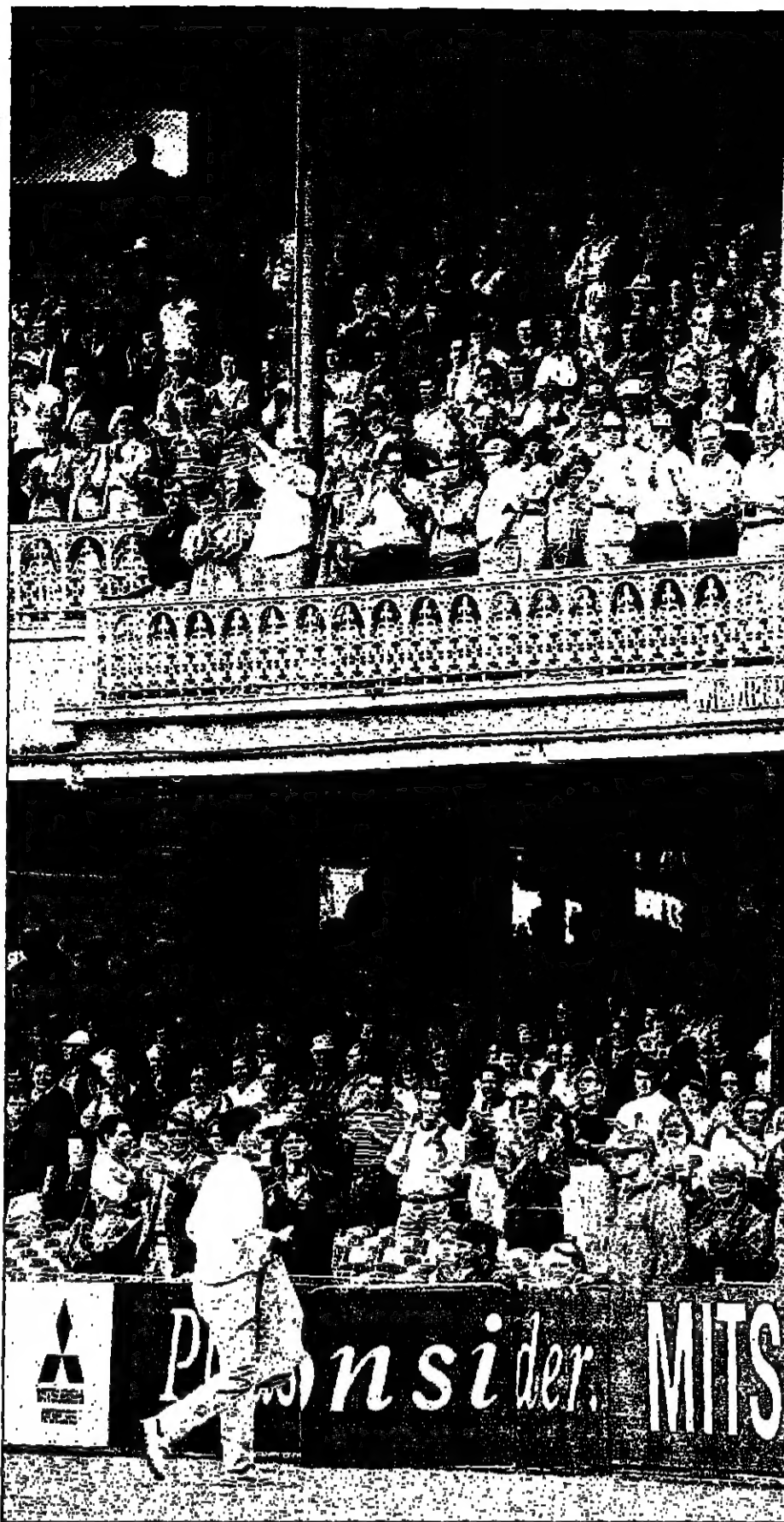
Bennett, the tour manager, said. He began the winter behind Bicknell, Iltis, Cork and McCague, and ended it, after a combination of injury and fortune reversal, as an England candidate.

His Test debut, against New Zealand at Old Trafford, was unimpressive. He bashed 65 runs in his first innings and took a wicket with his fifth ball. The crowd responded instantly to his winning manner. Playing for England meant more to him than offering a stepping-stone to a commercial opportunity. As a cricketer, and a man, he is appealingly honest.

Atherton, a man of wide-ranging tastes and curious intellect, is as different to Gough as it is possible to be, yet he values the bowler's spirit more than anyone. "We could do with a few more like him," he said. We could also do with a few more batsmen making 1,000 runs in a calendar year, as the England captain has just done, but there is nothing young Gough can do about that.

There is no doubting his talents. As a bowler, he is capable of high pace, as Hansie Cronje, now the South Africa captain, discovered at Headingley last summer. His strength lies in an ability to cut and swing the ball into the right-hander, and his variety. He has a sharp bouncer, an excellent yorker and a good slower ball. Best of all, he is never afraid.

Ultimately, comparisons count for little. No matter what the likes of Fred Trueman may say, the game changes from one generation to the next. "Don't call him the new Botham," Atherton said last night. "Too many have lived and died by that. Just say he is the new Darren Gough."



Gough receives a standing ovation from the members at the Sydney Cricket Ground after rocking Australia with six for 49. Photograph: Graham Morris

Thomson breaks through

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHANE THOMSON, the New Zealand off spinner, captured three wickets in quick succession to check South Africa as they threatened to take charge in the third and final Test match in Cape Town yesterday.

Thomson ended a first-wicket stand of 106, removing Rudolf Steyn and Gary Kirsten, the openers, and also dismissed Daryll Cullinan.

By the close on the second day, South Africa were 152 for three in reply to New Zealand's first innings of 288 in the deciding game of the series which is level 1-1.

Steyn and Kirsten made a good start before Thomson put a brake on the scoring as well as making inroads into the top order. After a promising debut innings in Test cricket, Steyn played around a straight ball and was adjudged leg-before for 38.

Kirsten then tried to sweep Thomson and was bowled round his legs for 64, and Cullinan, having made five, pulled a short ball, and was caught by a leaping Bryan Young at mid-wicket. John Commings (22 not out) and

Hansie Cronje (11 not out), the captain, guided South Africa through the remaining phase of the day.

New Zealand extended their overnight 211 for six to 288 all out, having been 96 for five at one stage. Stephen Fleming made 79, sharing a seventh-wicket stand of 66 with Matthew Hart (24).

Fleming's score, originally given as 78, was increased by one run after television cameras showed that Fanie de Villiers had been over the boundary when he fielded a

shot from the left-hander. Fleming's wicket was one of three to fall to Steven Jack, the fast bowler, who ended with four for 69. Brian McMillan finished with four for 65.

Allan Donald, the South Africa fast bowler, is visiting a surgeon tomorrow to obtain clearance to play after treatment for a cyst on his toe. He hopes to play in the Mandela Trophy finals, which start on Tuesday, as well as the one-off Test match against Pakistan at Johannesburg, later this month.

CAPE TOWN SCOREBOARD	
NEW ZEALAND: First Innings	
B A Young lbw b McMillan	45
D Cullinan c Kirsten b McMillan	64
R Steyn not out	38
M D Crowe c Richardson b Jack	18
K Rutherford	1
c Kirsten b McMillan	58
S A Thomson b McMillan	0
S P Fleming b Jack	79
S P Dool c Richardson b Jack	24
M P Dool c Cronje b Jack	24
D K Morrison not out	0
C Pringle b de Villiers	30
Steyn (lb 15, nb 10)	288
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-19, 3-61, 4-63, 5-96, 6-179, 7-244, 8-254, 9-264	
BOWLING: de Villiers 28.5-7-40-1; Jack 27-7-69-4; McMillan 26-5-65-4	
NEW ZEALAND: Second Innings	
Cronje 5-3-0-0; Steyn 26-10-36-0; Kirsten 2-0-7-0	
SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings	
G Kirsten b Thomson	64
J B Steyn b Thomson	22
J B Commings not out	22
D Cullinan c Young b Thomson	5
W J Cronje not out	11
Edwards (lb 5, nb 1, 12, nb 6)	122
Total (5 wickets)	122
J N Rhodes, B C McMillan, D J Richardson, S D Jack, C E Elvestad and P de Villiers to bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-08, 2-19, 3-25, 4-33, 5-55, 6-108, 7-140, 8-140, 9-140	
BOWLING: Morrison 12-4-38-0, Dool 14-5-25-0, Hart 20-4-47-0, Pringle 6-2-14-0, Thomson 13-3-23-3	

Cork leads A team rally

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DOMINIC CORK, who would have been switched to Australia had the England cricket selectors decided to replace the injured Craig White with another all-rounder, shrugged aside any disappointment he might have felt by contributing a purposeful, unbeaten 52 to the England A score of 221 for six on the opening day of the four-day game against India Youth at Bombay yesterday.

Despite a good innings of 59 from Mark Ramprakash, who batted skilfully for three hours, England A were in some trouble at 125 for five when Cork went out to join Paul Weekes to begin a partnership which was worth 92 when the Middlesex player fell for 39 just before the close.

"I like those situations; they tend to bring out the best in me," Cork said. He sprinted from the field both at the tea interval and at the close, when he had faced 95 balls in 131 minutes and hit seven fours.

But he was not a man in a hurry because he was suffering from early symptoms of tummy trouble. "It was hot out there and I just wanted to get

back into the cool of the dressing-room," he said. "Also, I was struck on the right thumb late in the day, so I wanted to get that checked out at the end."

Cork has played five one-day internationals for England and a World Cup place beckons next winter, but he desperately wants to break through at Test level. To do that, he knows he must improve his batting.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND A: First Innings	
J E R Galtan b Mhambrey	4
M Wright c Digne b Ramprakash	16
M R Ramprakash b S Sood	21
A P Wells c Digne b Ramprakash	21
P H Whiles c Larmann b Ramprakash	35
D G Clark not out	2
D G Clark not out	2
Bones (lb 7, nb 8, w 3, nb 10)	221
Total (6 wickets)	221
PA YOUTH CUP: First Innings	
PA Youth Cup: First Innings	
PA Youth Cup: First Innings	

"I have to make it at Test level as an all-rounder, so today was a pleasing start, especially as the ball was moving around quite a bit in the air and off the pitch," he said. "As a bowler, I was quite happy to see that."

Ramprakash's Test average — 16.69 from 14 matches and 24 innings — has left him with much to prove on this two-month tour as he aims to rebuild his senior career.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Foster plays leading short-course role

MARK FOSTER led a successful opening session by Britain's swimmers on the first day of the World Cup short-course meeting in Hong Kong. Foster, a Commonwealth Games gold medal-winner who also reached the world championship final in Rome last year, won the 50 metres butterfly and finished third in the 100 metres freestyle. Michelle Smith, of Ireland, was the British Isles' most successful women swimmer, winning the 100 metres butterfly and the 200 metres individual medley.

Kathy Osler trailed in third behind Sandra Volker, of Germany — who set a world record — in the 50 metres backstroke. Volker clocked 27.86sec, beating the previous best of 27.93sec by Angel Martino, of the United States. Martino's record, set at Sabadell, Spain, in December 1993, was smashed twice last year by Bai Xiyun, of China, but her time of 27.62sec was erased from the record books after she tested positive for ephedrine and banned for a month.

Family celebrates

TENNIS: The brother-sister combination of Andrei Medvedev and Natalia Medvedeva earned Ukraine a 2-1 victory over the United States and a place in the semi-finals of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. The American team of Richy Reneberg and Lindsay Davenport had been seeded to face the Czech Republic in the last four, but were struggling from the moment Davenport lost 4-6, 3-6 to Medvedeva in the opening singles. Reneberg and Medvedeva produced a high-class men's singles encounter before Medvedev won 6-7, 7-6, 6-3.

□ Jeremy Bates, of England, beat Joern Renzenbrink, of Germany, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the first round of the Australian men's hard-court championships in Adelaide.

Malaysian topples seed

SQUASH: Hopes of a home success in the Commercial Union British boys under-19 championship were probably enhanced by the removal of the last two Egyptians in the third round at Lambeth Club yesterday, but there were signs of a new threat from Malaysia (Colin McQuillan writes). Iain Higgins, of Essex, who defeated Karim Alghamdi 9-3, 9-0, 9-3, looks set for a quarter-final against Marcus Cowie, from Norfolk. But in the quarter above them, Arnold Lai, of Malaysia, came through, and Michael Soo, his compatriot, unexpectedly beat Mikko Monia, of Finland, the No 5 seed.

Taylor's challenge

DARTS: Phil Taylor, the winner of the Proton Cars world championship, yesterday threw down a challenge to the British Darts Organisation (BDO), the official ruling body of the game in Britain. Taylor, who beat Rod Harrington 6-2 in the final at Purfleet in an event staged by the breakaway World Darts Council, said: "I want to play the winner of the Embassy world championship [which is organised by the BDO and ends on Sunday] to decide who is the real world champion." Taylor, from Stoke, won the Embassy title in 1990 and 1992.

Solanki lifts England

CRICKET: The England under-19 team opened their tour of West Indies with a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Barbados at the Kensington Oval. Matthew Dimond, of Somerset, took three wickets for 28 and Willem Solanki, of Worcestershire, three for 14 as Barbados, put in to bat, were dismissed for 113 in a match restricted by rain to 38 overs per side. England reached the target for the loss of three wickets, with Marcus Trescothick (26) and Chris Schofield, the Yorkshire player, putting on 47 for the first wicket and Solanki hitting an unbeaten 41.

Cornhuskers take title

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Nebraska outpointed Penn State in the Associated Press media poll to capture the United States college championship yesterday. Although both teams were undefeated, voters clearly preferred Nebraska after the Cornhuskers beat Miami 24-17 in the Orange Bowl and Penn State defeated Oregon 38-20 in the Rose Bowl. It is the first national title for Tom Osborne, the Nebraska coach, although he has the best winning percentage of any active coach, and the first championship for the Cornhuskers since they won consecutive crowns in 1970-71.

THE TIMES

Win the trip of a lifetime to the biggest party in history

Today is day nine of The Times Millennium 2000, which offers readers the opportunity to spend New Year's Eve 1999 crossing the International Date Line to both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. First prize is a 28 day world air cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in Fiji and the Cook Islands to join in the festivities. The trip takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson, Washington and Sydney. It includes helicopter sightseeing over the Fiji Islands and hot-air ballooning over the Arizona desert, and would cost £64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

Should you be unsuccessful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brainchild of The Millennium Foundation, a non profit-making charity which is organising fundraising parties to help specific local charities across the world. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage gallery and fund the Kirov Ballet.

You could, for example, celebrate the dawn of the new millennium in majestic Alaska, land of glaciers, mountains and diverse and abundant wildlife. The gala party will be on Mount Alyeska, with breathtaking views. Your stay at the Alaskan Prince Hotel in Girdwood would cost £2,250 per person in 1999, but readers can secure their places now for £2,250 each. Commencing December 28, 1999, the cost includes air travel and hotel accommodation and your ticket to the New Year's Eve gala party.

TOKEN 9

To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which are appearing between December 26 and Saturday January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: The Times Millennium 2000 Competition, 5 Brittons Court, London EC8B 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, which appeared last week, will appear again on Saturday. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Ltd, Freeport GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.

Who was credited with having been the first European to land in Alaska in 1741?

FOR THE RECORD	
AMERICAN FOOTBALL TEMPE, Arizona: Fiesta Bowl: Colorado 41, New Mexico 24. PASADENA, Calif.: Rose Bowl: Penn State 38, Oregon 20. ORLANDO, Fla.: Citrus Bowl: Alabama 24, Ohio State 17. NEW ORLEANS, La.: Sugar Bowl: Florida State 28, Florida 17.	FOOTBALL Monday's later results FA CUP: Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur 1, Arsenal 0. EMBLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Luton Town 0, Charlton 1.
BASKETBALL CRYSTAL PALACE: WGBA tournament: Mens: Final: Thames Valley 98 (Scotsbury 24, Bucknall 18, Holley 16) London 88 (Windass 37, Lewis 27).	ICE HOCKEY BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 7, Grimsby 4; Duffryn 5, Whitley Bay 2; Peterborough 7, Milton Keynes 10; Sheffield 7, Humber 5; First division: Chelmsford 7, Gillingham 4; Burnley 13, Torquay 6; Paisley 11, Blackburn 4; Solihull 8, Macclesfield 4; Telford 7, Telford 8.
CRICKET BARBADOS: Tour match (one day): Barbados 113, England under-19 117-3. England under-19 won by 7 wickets. SHEFFIELD: Shield (one day of four): Adelaide 308, South Australia 254-8; Victoria 315 and 187 (S George 4-31, P McIntyre 4-63). South Australia won by an innings and 42 runs. EAST LONDON: Tour match (third day of four): Border 223 and 79-0; Sri Lanka 454 (A P Gunaratne 117, A Ranasinghe 116, E Upekantha 67, J Silva 4-25, P Dool 4-8).	CYCLING CYCLO-CROSS: Tour Talbot Wheelers (Goyle, West Glamorgan, 3.5 miles): 1, D Wain (Somerset, CC), 51min 05sec; 2, D Wain (Somerset, CC), 51min 05sec; 3, D Wain (Somerset, CC), 51min 05sec; 4, D Wain (Somerset, CC), 51min 05sec.
DARTS PRIMLEY GREEN: British Darts Organisation world championship: First round: A Fisher (Eng) 3-2, N Turner (Eng) 3-2, S Williams (Eng) 3-2, J Taylor (Eng) 3-2, P Hogg (Wales) 3-2, A Jones (Eng) 3-1, R.	SWIMMING HONG KONG: Short-course meeting: Mens 50m breaststroke: 1, M Wainwright (Ger) 27.86sec; 2, A Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 3, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 4, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 5, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 6, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 7, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 8, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 9, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec; 10, M Wainwright (Ger) 28.11sec.
MOTOR RALLYING ER RACHIDA, Morocco: Gained to Dakar rally: Second stage: Stage 1: B. B. (Morocco) 1st; 2nd: B. B. (Morocco) 2nd; 3rd: B. B. (Morocco) 3rd; 4th: B. B. (Morocco) 4th; 5th: B. B. (Morocco) 5th; 6th: B. B. (Morocco) 6th; 7th: B. B. (Morocco) 7th; 8th: B. B. (Morocco) 8th; 9th: B. B. (Morocco) 9th; 10th: B. B. (Morocco) 10th.	TABLE TENNIS MANCHESTER: England v China (English).
RUGBY UNION CLUB MATCH: Cancelled: Huddersfield v Preston Lodge.	OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Basketball League: Birmingham v Worthing (B.D.). DARTS: Embassy world championship (Final): Taylor (Eng) 3-2, Williams (Eng) 3-2.
SQUASH LAMBETH CLUB, London: Commercial Union British Junior open championship (England unless stated): Boys under-19: 1st round: J. Russell 3-0, M. Knight 3-0, 3-0, 3-0.	OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Basketball League: Birmingham v Worthing (B.D.). DARTS: Embassy world championship (Final): Taylor (Eng) 3-2, Williams (Eng) 3-2.



The end of the world is nigh, quite possibly

As stories go, last night's Network First (ITV) was pretty damn good. Being no less than global post-apocalypse, "Imagine a nightmare world where the AIDS virus kills in two weeks, not ten years," it suggested, "dominantly, 'Imagine the threat of a virus would pose to mankind if, like flu, it could be transmitted by a single cough or sneeze.' (It will be surprisingly easy to imagine all this, incidentally, because it sounded like bubonic plague.)"

When a television documentary takes such a bring-out-your-dead tone as this, it may expect to hook viewers, of course; but it must also expect to lose them for a few moments while, panicking and holding clothes to their nostrils, they soak up in bleach, and stuff them into the windows. For my own part, by the time I had driven

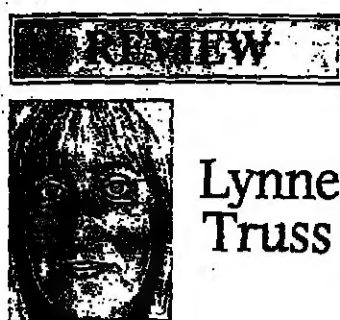
in a gas-mask to the all-night shop for Domestic, I had missed a few important elements of *The Plague Monkeys*, and gained only hazy impressions of its killer plague threatening to swing through the human race like a pestilential chesspiece. It was a pity, because, though the script was clear, it had something to do with monkeys. I made up my mind to look at the

Witching it more calmly on video, in a well-lit isolation tent, I began to wonder whether the alarmist tone was really justified. However, first, it appeared that this *Plague Monkey* had killed only two times — in a monkey lab in Germany in the late 1960s; in monkey-eating Zaire in 1976; in a monkey quarantine establishment in America in 1989. Each time, the epidemic has been successfully isolated and contained. The virus is not to be sneezed at, obviously; but on the

other hand, it is six years since it appeared anywhere, and only in a monkeys-only epidemic was it transferred through the air. Having started with all those "Imagine that" hypotheticals, the real story of last night's Network First was that a killer virus is rampant; it was that maybe it could happen, possibly. Virologists meanwhile would welcome better monitoring of monkeys. More screening! (But that's not quite such a big story.)

NB. The good news about the *Plague Virus* is that it has an unmissable profile under a microscope, and is so enormous it could wear a hat.

Stepping into the *Soldier*, *Soldier* soldier, here comes Kavanagh QC (ITV), and good luck to you, old son, you'll need it. Last night's two-hour opener was a slow piece but an absorbing one, introducing John Thaw as Kavanagh, plus his



Lynne Truss

chambers and family, and giving him a pretty simple case to defend: old student Ewan McGregor rape housewife Alison Steadman, or did she have sex voluntarily and then invent the charge to get attention from her husband? Since rape victims are generally rejected by their husbands (see *Cracker*, passim), this sounded an unlikely case. But the courtroom testimonies were skilfully played, and you

weren't sure until the end who was telling the truth.

John Thaw seems well set for Kavanagh. His strength is in playing men of limited intellect, and who get angry and combative when they sense other people's doubts. Moreover, he is supposedly a top advocate, a brilliant man risen from the northern working class. Thaw's tendency to look keenly worried is rather useful here as it brings vulnerability to an otherwise rather insufferable bloke. As for his accent, it can do about with impunity (I always thought his Inspector Morse accent was bogus, though it was an unpopular point of view). Finally, Thaw looks very, very distinguished in a wig.

I have to say I didn't care much about Kavanagh's home life — neglected wife Lisa Harrow, who recently concluded an affair with a chap called Miles; daughter with

idealistic boyfriend; son with computer games. Home lives are included in such crime dramas to make the protagonists more real, but if they are brilliant, their spouses just moan about missed meals and things, and it's boring. If Kavanagh QC hangs around after work for a drink, who can blame him, with these unattractive whingers waiting at home? Get a life, you lesser Kavanaghs! Let Daddy get on with his!

If the killer *Plague Virus* could be transmitted by laughing, all of Britain will have been mercifully safe from infection for half an hour last night, when John Kavanagh QC returned to BBC 2. This sitcom, now in its second series, astoundingly won a Bafta award, though nobody can remember what for. I confess I missed the first series deliberately, having loathed the pilot. I watched it last

night out of a sense of fair play. Such impulses should obviously be resisted.

It's not just that the central character Mark (Robert Bathurst) is so sneering and unattractive, or that his writing (he's a comedian) is so nasty. It's not just that the situation was so obvious — embarrased man explicitly seeking manual relief peruses soft porn in newsgast, is surprised by former girlfriend, tries to hide porn, censored. If the comic situation smacked of "adult" video, so did the production style and the acting.

The joke was slow, the climax (involving the former girlfriend having sex on video) was cheap, the reaction shots of the newsgast's customers across the road (pointing, taking pictures of ladders against windows) was like something from Benny Hill. I'm obviously missing something. Memo to self next week, watch it with clothes stuffed up nose.

BBC1	BBC2
6.00 Business Breakfast (54758)	7.00 Daily Dispatch (4038907) 7.05 Bump
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1863988)	7.10 Today
9.00 Bucky O'Hare (4245278) 9.30 Joe Sc. Puppet	7.15 The Worst
adventure of the boy genius (84938)	7.20 Play of the Week (1517433)
10.00 News (Castell, regional news and weather	8.00 Breakfast News (Castell and Segar) (815907)
(1009704) 10.05 Playdays (s) (3895148)	8.15 Thunderbirds (s) (Castell) (2013487)
10.30 Good Morning With Anne and Nick (s) (50610)	8.35 FILM: Come Live With Me (1941, b/w) starring
12.00 News (Castell, regional news and weather	James Stewart and Hedy Lamarr. Comedy in which
(752452) 12.05 Pebble Mill introduced by Ross	a beautiful refugee marries a writer to avoid being
King (s) (852517) 12.55 Regional News and	deported and then flees for divorce when he uses
weather (7833181)	her story as the basis for a bestseller. Directed by
1.00 News (Castell) and weather (3437891)	Cecilia Brown (416810)
1.25 Neighbours (Castell) (s) (5183181) 1.30 Time	10.30 FILM: Unconquered (1947) starring Gary Cooper
Keepers. Quiz game (s) (1619125)	and Pauline Goddard. Melodrama directed by
2.15 FILM: Alias Smith and Jones (1970) starring Pat	Cecil B. DeMille (8684861)
Deuel and Ben Murphy. The feature-length pilot for	12.55 The Secret Garden. Alan Titchmarsh visits
the successful television western series about a pair	a garden in Kent. Sufolk (8222182) 1.00
of outlaws trying to give up their life of crime.	Charlie Chalk (s) (1333553)
Directed by Gene Levitt (849278)	1.15 International Golf. The Canon charity shoot-out
3.30 Cartoon (527568) 3.45 Clock As a Parrot. A new	from Wenvort (842520)
series of the crossword puzzle game (515723)	2.10 Soap of Praise from Lambeth Palace (s). (Castell)
4.00 Jeopardy. Joe Livermore narrates past two	(s) (7337471)
of James Andrew Hall's <i>Four Feet</i> (2851723) 4.15	2.35 Meet. A celebration of the lives and achievements
Potterworth and Co. (s) (4794742)	of the over-50s (s) (7034181)
4.35 The Really Wild Show. (Castell) (s)	3.00 News and weather. Beyond the Wall (8051159)
(4898610)	3.30 News (Castell) and weather (5757481)
5.00 Newsround (5725704)	4.00 World Darts (8991)
	5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. (Castell)



Peer in the land of Eldor (s) (1009)

BBC1	BBC2
5.10 The Really Wild Show. (Castell) (s)	7.00 Daily Dispatch (4038907) 7.05 Bump
(4898610)	7.10 Today
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Castell) (s) (5183181)	7.15 The Worst
5.50 Six O'Clock News (Castell) and weather (839)	7.20 Play of the Week (1517433)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (881)	8.00 Breakfast News (Castell and Segar) (815907)
7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel surprises another	8.15 Thunderbirds (s) (Castell) (2013487)
worthy. (Castell) (s) (2742)	8.35 FILM: Come Live With Me (1941, b/w) starring
7.30 On the Up. Comedy about self-made millionaire	James Stewart and Hedy Lamarr. Comedy in which
Tony Carpenter and his friends. Starring Dennis	a beautiful refugee marries a writer to avoid being
Waterman (s). (Castell) (s) (425) Wales: Winter in	deported and then flees for divorce when he uses
Wales	her story as the basis for a bestseller. Directed by
8.00 How Do They Do That? Desmond Lynam and	Cecilia Brown (416810)
Jenny Hull reveal more secrets of life and television	10.30 FILM: Unconquered (1947) starring Gary Cooper
and celebrate tales of success in the fields of	and Pauline Goddard. Melodrama directed by
medicine, science, sport and entertainment.	Cecil B. DeMille (8684861)
(Castell) (s) (80452)	12.55 The Secret Garden. Alan Titchmarsh visits
8.45 Points of View presented by Paul Harvey. (Castell)	a garden in Kent. Sufolk (8222182) 1.00
(s) (67549)	Charlie Chalk (s) (1333553)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather.	1.15 International Golf. The Canon charity shoot-out
(8907)	from Wenvort (842520)
9.30 Devil's Advocate. (Castell) (s)	2.10 Soap of Praise from Lambeth Palace (s). (Castell)
(420655)	(s) (7337471)
10.50 FILM: Heartburn (1987) starring Mary Steep	2.35 Meet. A celebration of the lives and achievements
and Jack Nicholson. Romantic comedy about a couple	of the over-50s (s) (7034181)
of writers whose marriage starts to crumble when	3.00 News and weather. Beyond the Wall (8051159)
rumours begin to circulate that the husband is	3.30 News (Castell) and weather (5757481)
having an affair. Directed by Mike Nichols. (Castell)	4.00 World Darts (8991)
(7572665)	5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. (Castell)
12.35am FILM: Perfect Witness (1993) starring Brian	(33948)
Dentley. A thriller about a man who witnesses a	
murder and is charged with the crime. Directed by	
Robert M. Young. (Castell) (s) (824532)	

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (1863988) 9.55-10.00 Anglia News (1863988) 10.00-10.05 Country Practice (18185555) 10.05-10.10 Gardening Time (18717143) 10.10-10.15 Anglia News and Weather (8758555) 10.10-10.40 Shortland Street (8225210) 10.40-10.45 Anglia News (1863988) 10.45-10.50 Anglia News (1863988) 10.50-10.55 Anglia News (1863988) 10.55-11.00 Anglia News (1863988) 11.00-11.05 Anglia News (1863988) 11.05-11.10 Anglia News (1863988) 11.10-11.15 Anglia News (1863988) 11.15-11.20 Anglia News (1863988) 11.20-11.25 Anglia News (1863988) 11.25-11.30 Anglia News (1863988) 11.30-11.35 Anglia News (1863988) 11.35-11.40 Anglia News (1863988) 11.40-11.45 Anglia News (1863988) 11.45-11.50 Anglia News (1863988) 11.50-11.55 Anglia News (1863988) 11.55-12.00 Anglia News (1863988) 12.00-12.05 Anglia News (1863988) 12.05-12.10 Anglia News (1863988) 12.10-12.15 Anglia News (1863988) 12.15-12.20 Anglia News (1863988) 12.20-12.25 Anglia News (1863988) 12.25-12.30 Anglia News (1863988) 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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4 1995

England seize command after fast bowler's six-wicket haul shatters Australia

Bold Gough exploits rich seam

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

IN A generally mournful year for the national team, England have contrived the occasional intoxicating day when their cricket has been irresistible. Invariably, desperation has been the prompt for such deeds and yesterday was no exception. It was as if the teams had traded costumes, so that the tenacity belonged to England, the tension to Australia. The Ashes, certainly, were on hold.

Australia, scrambling undeservedly past the follow-on figure, were bowled out for 116. Optimists will discern a symbolism in the fact that this was their lowest score against England since the Headingley Test of 1981, the launch pad of a magical transformation in an Ashes series. Romantics will also point to Ian Botham's role in that victory and relate it to Darren Gough.

This is unfair, not so much to Botham as to Gough. England's two requires no comparisons with the past for he is refreshingly different. Yesterday, he took six Australia wickets for 49 to add to his ebullient 51 on Monday. "I am on the honours board now."

'At Gough's age, Botham had made a thousand Test runs and taken a hundred wickets in record time'

— Michael Henderson's view, page 37

he announced proudly, having received congratulations in writing from Ray Lindwall and on the telephone from Harold Larwood.

No England player has scored a half-century and taken five wickets in an innings in a single Test since Chris Lewis at Edgbaston in 1991. For Lewis, this was one more false dawn to a career chained by introspection. It is difficult to believe the same fate will befall Gough, for already he enjoys the affection of the public and the grudging respect of the opposition.

Taking five wickets for the first time meant a great deal to him, but it was the way he took his fifth that said so much about the man. Mark Taylor had batted through the innings with clear and increasing irritation as eight wickets fell at the other end. On 49, Gough confounded him with a leg break. "I once got a wicket with one in a benefit match," he explained ardently. "But I've bowled it four times out here and taken two wickets." There is no inhibition to a young bowler who can do this to the Australia captain.

On a day when Australia responded to England's best bowling of the series with a baring performance, Gough with neurotic errors, Devine with one-liners, Angus Fraser took two wickets each, bowling capably to their strengths, the edges were all unerringly caught and Michael Atherton's captaincy took on the buoyant air of one who believes he can win again.

Atherton's batting has not been in question, however, and by surviving through a dark, damp evening, finally cut short by 40 minutes, he extended to 254 the number of overs he has occupied in the series to date. England had lost Gough, dismissed by a highly debatable leg-before decision when in his most positive form for weeks, but led by 283 with nine wickets standing and two days left.

When six weeks have been given over to widespread breast-beating about the ills of the English game, a day such as this takes some explaining. But all it has proved, beyond the reminder that England are still capable of such things, is that so much of this game is played in the head.

England were roused by the spirit of their tail-end batting on Monday and hurled themselves at Australia with a vigour not often seen in recent Ashes contests. The reappraisal was too much for a home team accustomed to dictating terms against this opposition and the mental barriers that had grown between the sides came down with a clatter.

Conditions were perfect for seam bowling, the weather overcast, the air moist and the pitch never quite losing its freshness as passing showers punctuated the day. But England's trio bowled with a consistency of length and line that had been beyond them until now. Atherton supported them with attacking fields and Australia with aberrations.

Michael Slater, his bat crooked, dragged the ball into his stumps, while both David Boon and Steve Waugh shouldered arms to deliveries from Gough that came back sufficiently off the seam to hit off stump. "It was poor judgment, you can't get away from that," Taylor conceded. "But even if you play a hundred Test matches, you still can't judge every ball correctly."

Malcolm produced a good one for Mark Waugh, committing the shot if not the open face which deflected the ball low to the wicketkeeper, and Michael Bevan batted for almost an hour without convincing anyone that he will still be around when the next Test is played, in Adelaide. His one convincing stroke was a square cut for four off Fraser, who immediately switched to round the wicket and had him caught at slip, probing diffidently, next ball.

Ian Healy played a loose drive in the last over of the morning and the rapid demise of Waugh and May left Australia on 65 for eight, 45 short of avoiding the follow-on. Taylor advised Craig McDermott to bat positively, and, in the image of Gough and Malcolm a day earlier, so he did. How he survived, however, remains a mystery.

The score was only 71 when Malcolm failed to move for what would have been a straightforward catch at mid-on. Taylor then misread a pull, offering a return catch which Malcolm put down.

Malcolm always has it in him to imitate both Sylvester Stallone and Frank Spencer in a single session, and it was almost predictable that the runs which saved the follow-on were donated by a bouncer which not only cleared Taylor



Gough hurries the ball into the air in celebration after catching Taylor, the Australia captain, one of his six wickets during a vigorous display that had Australia reeling in the third Test yesterday. Photograph: Rebecca Naden

Grand match for Yorkshire and Oxbridge

John Woodcock says Australian crowds have been warmly appreciative of Gough's heroics

At practice on the eve of this third Test match, the body language of the two sides told one everything. As the Australians practiced, not to say swayed, the Englishmen looked oppressed, not to say embarrassed. When confronted by the press, as he walked out from batting, Michael Atherton went so far as to keep his helmet on.

It so happens that England's two coaches, Keith Fletcher and Geoff Arnold, appear doleful even at the best of times. Both keen fishermen, they could just have landed the Loch Ness monster and still look as though it had got away. Gough, unwavering patriot that he is, shuffled into view, shoulders sagging. Then appeared John Edrich, ever a fighter, hard as a pebble and the maker of four Test hundreds in Australia, and everyone said the same thing — "now there's the sort of man we need".

Well, we are not thinking that any more. Things have looked up, wondrously so. On Saturday, Atherton and Crawley did England, Manchester Grammar School and the ancient universities proud. Yes, the ancient universities, inferentially derided by Raymond Illingworth whenever he sees the chance. Having been to Cambridge, he said, and never done a day's work of a certain kind, Atherton was not best equipped to "gee-up" his side.

The chairman of selectors approves of Atherton. It just is that he has a thumping great chip as well. It is, of course, no more admissible to lampoon Atherton is not qualified to pull England together because he went to Cambridge than it is to say that Gough played the innings he did on Monday because he is a Yorkshireman. The trademark of Illingworth's England's captaincy was deliberation, not motivation: the trademark of Atherton's is tenacity. Atherton can, in fact, take much credit for England's revival and Illingworth will get round to telling him so, I am sure.

Until now, the number of Australians who were keen for England to do well had been getting rather unhealthy. Their affection for Gough is different. They have taken him to their hearts, thinking they see in him the spirit of Australia. When he was out on Monday morning, the reception he was given was ecstatic. When he led England in yesterday afternoon, after taking six for 49, it was the same again. The ranks of Tuscany rose in acclamation.

I can think of no other English cricketer who has become so instantly popular out here. They loved Patsy Hendren and enjoyed jousting with Fred Trueman and laughed at Johnny Wardle and gasped at Frank Tyson and goggled at Denis Compton and turned somersaults with Derek Randall, but Darren Gough they have adopted. There is something of Ian Botham in him, and he has yet to be broken in.

England went in, I had an awful fear that England might be 80 for five, or something of that sort, by the close. Instead, Atherton stood firm again; Gough played like the Gough of old. Hick was given the life he needed, and the day ended with Australians beginning to think that perhaps England have not entirely forgotten how to play the game.

Until now, my favourite matches in Australia have come from 1954-55, when England turned the tables on a rampaging opponent and 1986-87, when Australia lost as easily as they had expected to win. This one bids to join them. England's confidence has been given a boost, not least because the pitch has nothing in it for Waugh, and yesterday they took fine advantage of the conditions — a low sky and a moving ball. If the sun comes out again, Australia will take a lot of bowling out a second time; but, for the moment, the taunting has stopped. Cricket is a wonderful game again, and "body language" can go to blazes.

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

ENGLAND: First Innings 309 (M A Atherton 88, J P Crawley 72, D Gough 51, C J McDermott 5 for 101)		AUSTRALIA: First Innings 116 (M Slater 34, D Boon 14 for 1)	
Second Innings		Extras (b 6, lb 1, nb 3) 10	
G A Gough bow b Fleming 29	(61min, 37 balls, four fours)	M J Slater b Malcolm 11	(26min, 24 balls, 1 four)
M A Atherton not out 32	(118min, 99 balls, 1 four)	M A Taylor c and b Gough 49	(208min, 131 balls, 2 fours)
G A Hick not out 22	(60min, 35 balls, three fours)	D C Boon b Gough 3	(6min, 5 balls)
Extras (b 4, w 1, nb 2) 7		M E Waugh c Rhodes b Malcolm 3	(4min, 4 balls)
Total (1 wk, 28.3 overs, 118min) 50		M G Bevan c Thorpe b Fraser 8	(60min, 31 balls, 1 four)
G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, M W Gatting, J S Rhodes, D Gough, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm and P C R Tufnell to bat.		S R Waugh b Gough 1	(13min, 8 balls)
FALL OF WICKET: 1-54 (Atherton 20)		I A Healy c Hick b Gough 10	(10min, 10 balls, 3 fours)
BOWLING: McDermott 12-2-87-0 (nb 2, 3-1-5-0, 5-1-25-0); Fleming 11-2-41-1 (w 1, 2-0-5-0, 9-2-25-1); M E Waugh 2-1-4-0 (1-1-0-0, 1-0-4-0); Waugh 1-2-0-0 (one spell)		S K Warne c Gatting b Fraser 0	(4min, 5 balls)
		T B A May c Hick b Gough 0	(7min, 2 balls)
		C J McDermott not out 21	(61min, 30 balls, 2 fours)
		D W Fleming b Gough 0	(1min, 1 ball)

Compiled by Bill Fiddell

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 360

ACROSS

- 1 Cut clumsily; ride (4)
- 3 In good spirits (8)
- 8 Ark builder (4)
- 9 Infectious (8)
- 11 Outline figure (10)
- 14 Tiny; memorandum (6)
- 15 Drink of the gods (6)
- 17 Winner; protector of car radiator (10)
- 20 Of material resources; operable profitably (8)
- 21 Greek B (4)
- 22 Value very highly (8)
- 23 Big surplus (4)

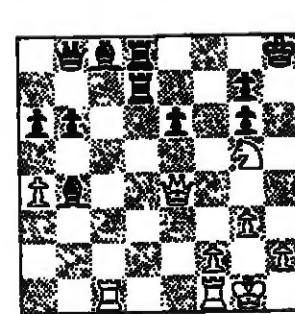
DOWN

- 1 Attractive; generous (8)
- 2 Going very slowly; abasing oneself (8)
- 4 Practical joker (6)
- 5 With authority (esp. of Pope) (2,8)
- 6 Spin over; egg drink (4)
- 7 Company emblem (4)
- 10 Ominously significant (10)
- 12 Refined; impalpable (8)
- 13 Man-made item (8)
- 16 Sultan's minister (6)
- 18 Fuel; fertiliser from bog (4)
- 19 Be half-asleep (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 359

- ACROSS: 1 Jump the gun 8 Detours 9 Sense 10 Stern
11 Break out 13 Batch 14 Riven 16 Singular 17 Knit
20 Drunk 21 Bourgeois 22 In hot water
- DOWN: 1 Judas 2 Mother tongue 3 Tout 4 Ensure
5 Upstairs 6 Inconvenient 7 Sexton 12 Shrunken 13 Beside
15 Bamboo 18 Tuner 19 Crow

This position is from the game Alekhine - Rubinstein, Carlsbad 1923. White is a piece down. Should he recapture on b4, or has he got something better?



Solution, page 36
Raymond Keene, page 6

By Philip Howard

- INKY-PINKY
a. The small finger
b. A small beer
c. A small pig
- KELPIE
a. A deer tick
b. A soft hat
c. A sheep-dog

- MEDEVAC
a. A military helicopter
b. An ancient dialect
c. A medieval strip of ground
- MOODLE
a. To dawdle
b. To confuse
c. To spill

Answers on page 36

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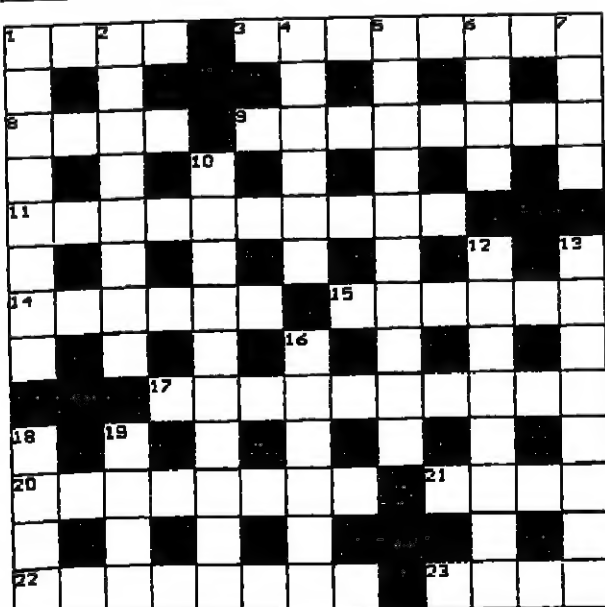
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